STARS STRIPES.



Military to look into increasing number of Humvee accidents



Man charged with plotting to kidnap Letterman's son

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2005

DOD officials want new retirement rules

Proposals aimed at military personnel with 20-plus years



crafts, old coins and interesting helmets (right).

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ews Tracker ... What's new with old news

Military

Air Force's Predator squadron: The Air Force plans to enlist the New York Air National Guard to operate one of its unmanned aerial vehicle squadrons. Gov. George Pataki announced

It's part of an Air Force initiative that could expand the Predator program to as many as 15 squadrons by 2010

Pataki's statement didn't disclose the location of New York's Predator station

Navy sonar and whales: Sonar pulsing from a Navy guided-missile destroyer during training exercises near the San Juan Islands near Seattle two years ago was likely loud enough to send killer whales fleeing, ac cording to a government agency report

The National Marine Fisheries Service reoort backed up local experts who said sonar from the USS Shoup caused a group of orcas to behave abnormally, apparently trying to avoid the sound

It contradicts the Navy's previous findings that orcas in Puget Sound's J Pod seemed unaffected by the sonar coming from the Shoup on May 5, 2003.

States

Holocaust families' treasures: A federal judge in Miami tentatively approved a \$25.5 million settlement of claims that U.S. troops plundered the riches of Hungarian Holocaust families from a Nazi train

U.S. District Judge Patricia Seitz called the participants "peacemakers" and said the settlement gives the government "the opportunity to step up to correct an injustice that may have occurred 60 years ago

Under the settlement, reached last week and accepted Thursday by Seitz, the Claims Conference on Holocaust issues will oversee distribution of the settlement money to needy Hungarian survivors.

Detroit terror suspect: An immigrant who was once tried on terrorism charges in a case marred by prosecutorial misconduct plans to plead guilty next week to unrelated insurance fraud charges and be deported. his lawyer said.

Ahmed Hannan, 36, of Detroit is tired of fighting the legal system, defense lawyer James Thomas said Thursday.

"After coming to court for five bond hearings and not being able to obtain a bond and after having been assaulted by another inmate at Wayne County Jail and losing his front teeth - he decided that continuing the legal battle wasn't worth it anymore and he wants to go home," Thomas told the Detroit

Wisconsin hotel shooting: A man who fatally shot seven fellow church members and then killed himself at a church meeting in a Brookfield, Wis., hotel had a history of depression and disagreed with his pastor, his mother told a medical examiner

Shirley Ratzmann said her 44-year-old son, Terry Ratzmann, had a history of de-pression "relating to job problems for the last couple of years," but had not seen a doctor about it, a medical examiner's report released Thursday shows

Shirley Ratzmann also said the Living Church of God congregation her son attend ed had split from another church a few years ago

"She stated that her son did not agree with the new pastor's point of view, but 'did-n't harp on it,' " the report said.

Immigrant smuggling deaths: Some of the charges against a truck driver accused in a deadly smuggling attempt could be dropped after a judge in Houston said prosecutors failed to show he was guilty of charges of harboring illegal immigrants.

U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore on Thursday stopped short of throwing out 19



Pacifist nuns: From left, Ardeth Platte, Carol Gilbert and Jackie Hudson, Dominican nu from Grand Rapids, Mich., listen to speakers addressing a crowd outside the federal courthouse in downtown Denver in July 2003. A federal appeals court upheld the prison sentences Thursday for the three pacifist nuns accused of using their blood to deface a missile silo in northern Colorado in 2002. The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals noted the potential benefit of civil disobedience, but upheld a jury's decision to convict the nuns on charges of obstructing national defense and damaging government property.

charges against Tyrone Williams, but asked Immigration and Customs Enforcement. prosecutors and defense attorneys to submit arguments.

Williams, 34, still faces 39 other charges including conspiracy to harbor, conceal and transport illegal immigrants and transporting immigrants in a manner that resulted in serious injury and death.

Yucca Mountain nuclear waste: E- mails from a government hydrologist to his superrisor, copied to several co-workers, led the Energy Department to believe that docu-ments on the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste dump might have been falsified, government officials said.

The documents concerned 6-year-old U.S. Geological Survey studies of water movement in the planned Nevada dump. USGS scientists validated Energy Depart-ment conclusions that water seepage was relatively slow, so radiation would be less likely to escape

Other studies have pointed to faster water movement. If it turns out there was document falsification and it casts doubt on USGS' conclusions, that could undercut the Energy Department's case for Yucca

White House van threat: A man who threatened to blow up his van near the White House during inauguration week pleaded guilty Thursday to making a false explosives threat. Lowell Timmers, 54, of Cedar Springs

Mich., entered the plea in U.S. District Court as part of a deal for a reduced sen tence, federal prosecutors said. District Judge Emmett G. Sullivan must still must decide whether to accept the agreement for Timmers to serve two years and 10 months in prison. He will be sentenced June 30.

Timmers' threats brought traffic near the White House to a standstill for more than 41/2 hours on Jan. 18.

Business

Immigrants at Wal-Mart: Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer, has agreed to pay \$11 million to settle federal allegations it used hundreds of illegal immigrants to clean its stores, authorities said Friday.

Additionally, 12 businesses that provided contract janitor services to Wal-Mart will pay \$4 million in fines and plead guilty to criminal immigration charges, officials said.

case against Wal-Mart marks a record dollar amount for a civil immigration settlement, said Homeland Security Assis-tant Secretary Michael J. Garcia, director of World

Madrid terror suspects: Spanish police on Friday arrested a Syrian in Madrid who they believe helped recruit radical Islamists to be sent abroad and had ties with suspects charged in the Madrid train bombings of a vear ago.

Police, who gave the suspect's name as Mohannad Almallah Dabas, said he was arrested at his home in Madrid as part of the investigation being carried out by the National Court. The Interior Ministry said he and his brother used an apartment in Madrid to house recruits or people passing through. They were assisted by Basel Ghalyoun, a Syrian already jailed for his suspected role in the March 11, 2004, bombings, the ministry said

Bobby Fischer's citizenship: American chess genius Bobby Fischer, detained in Japan and awaiting de-



zenship after a parliamentary committee granted initial approval The motion to grant Fischer citizenship will

before Iceland's 63-member parliament for final approval on Monday, said a mem-

ber the General Committee. Fischer, 62, has been detained in Japan awaiting deportation to the United States.

Prince Charles' wedding: The blessing

ceremony following the civil marriage of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles will be shown live on

television, the prince's Clarence House office said Friday. Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Will-

iams is to lead the blessing at Windsor Castle following a civil wedding service at Windsor town hall April 8 The civil service will not be shown on TV, Clarence House said



Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Jordanian's alleged role in deadly blast fuels Shiite protest

BY SAMEER N. YACOUB
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — More than 2,000 Shiites marched Friday through Baghdad and some broke into the Jordanian Embassy and raised the Iraqi flag atop it to protest the alleged involvement of a Jordanian in Iraq's single deadliest suicide bombing — a Feb. 28 attack south of Baghdad that killed 125 people.

The protest came just two days after an influential Shitte leader claimed during Iraq's first National Assembly meeting that Jordan allegedly wasn't doing enough to prevent terrorists from slipping into Iraq.

In another development, Shitte and Kurdish negotiators reportedly have agreed that the National Assembly should reconvene on March 26 to elect a president and his council, officials said.

At least 2,000 protesters converged on the Jordanian Embassy after finishing Friday prayers at three Shiite mosques around Baghdad. They burned Israeli and Jordanian flags and shouted slogans against King Abdullah II.

They chanted: "Take your embassy away! We do not want to see you!" and "There's no God but God, Abdullah is the enemy of God!"

Three men in green camouflage were later seen on an embassy roof raising an Iraqi flag on a makeshift flagpole. Another flagpole with a crown that previously held the Jordanian flag was

Iraqi police and special forces gathered outside the embassy but failed to prevent demonstrators from reaching the building. The demonstrators later dispersed. It was the largest anti-Jordanian demonstration in a week.

Shittes have staged smaller protests in recent days after the Iraqi government on Monday condemned celebrations allegedly held by the family of a Jordanian man suspected of carrying out a terrorist attack that killed 125 people in the city of Hillah. Nearly all the victims were Shitte police and army recruits.

Jordanian government spokeswoman Asma Khader said her country condemned all terrorism and reconfirmed her government's solidarity with the Iraqi people.

"The government condemns strongly any attack against the Iraqi people, in particular the hid-eous massacre of Hillalh which killed scores of innocent people," Khader said, "We have put [in place] intensive measures to track those terrorists and there is security coordination with Iraq to protect the borders of both countries."

Meanwhile, Shiite and Kurdish negotiators reportedly have



Iraqi demonstrators push through a police line on their way to the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad on Friday. More than 2,000 Shiites marched through the streets to protest the alleged involvement of a Jordanian in a Feb. 28 suicide attack south of Baghdad that killed 125 people.

agreed the National Assembly should reconvene on March 26 to elect a president, officials said Fri-

The latest deal came amid reports that not all Kurds were satisfied with assurances given by the Shiite-dominated United Iraqi alliance over the oil-rich city of Kirkuk and a Kurdish militia.

Although Iraqis voted on Jan. 30 to elect 275 people to represent them in their first freely elected parliament in recent memory, the Kurds and Shiites that emerged as the country's main power brokers have been unable to form a coalition government.

The interim constitution sets no time limit for forming a government after the National Assembly convenes.

But once a president and vice presidents are elected, a prime minister must be chosen within two weeks.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Thursday at least 1,518 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,156 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is seven higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Thursday.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,380 U.S. millitary members have died, acording to AP's count. That includes at least 1,047 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Spc. Paul M. Heltzel, 39, Baton Rouge, La; killed Tuesday while on patrol when an explosive detonated in Baghdad; assigned to the National Guard, 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, 256th Brigade Combat Team, Eunice. La.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Ricky A. Kieffer, 36, Ovid, Mich.; killed Tuesday by small arms fire in Baghdad, assigned to the National Guard, 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery Regiment, Detroit.

Report: Army reviewing spike in Humvee mishaps

Stars and Stripes

Army officials tracking Humvee problems have seen sharp increases in rollover accidents and deaths in recent months, according to a report in USA Today.

The paper reported that the Army is trying to determine whether the spike in accidents is because of the increased use of the vehicles, the inexperience of the drivers, or the shifting weight caused by armor plat-

According to a USA Today analysis of Army records, the numbers of serious vehicle accidents and fatalities in Iraq in the last four months have doubled from the four months prior.

So far this year 14 soldiers have been killed in accidents involving Humvees or trucks.

The most recent rollover death occurred on March 11. Army Spc. Nicholas Eugend Wilson, a member of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division based at Camp Casey, South Korea, died near Ramadi when his Humvee rolled off the road

The March issue of Countermeasure, the Army's ground safety magazine, includes a look at the problem titled "On a Roll to

and into a water-filled ditch

Die" and includes tips like wearing seat belts and securing loose equipment to avoid serious injuries in a rollover acci-

USA Today reports that the Army is developing a four-hour driving course for soldiers, particularly those being sent to Iraq, to cover safety and rollover concerns.

Records on Marine Humvee accidents were not available.

U.S. crew helps free vessel

ARLINGTON, Va. — A U.S. Coast cutter, the USCGC Munro, and two British ships saved the crew of a Thai fishing vessel Thursday that had been hijacked by three Somali crewmembers in the Gulf of Aden Wednesday night. After learning from the International

Maritime Bureau's Piracy Reporting Center in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, that the hijackers had taken over and were demanding an S800,000 ransom, crew from the Munro—with support from the HMS Invincible and HMS Nottingham — boarded the Thai-flagged Sirichai Nava 12 around noon on Thursday and freed the hostages.

The Munro is deployed to the region as part of Combined Task Force 150, a coalition maritime force working in the Horn of Africa, the North Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman.

From staff reports

Swedish citizen kidnapped in Iraq released

BY MATTIAS KAREN The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — An Iraqi-born Swedish national kidnapped in Iraq more than a month ago has been freed, police said Thursday.

Minas Ibrahim al-Yousifi was released early Friday, Swedish lawmaker Cecilia Wikstroem said after speaking by telephone to his family.

"He was very relieved but worn out. He's tired, of course, and needs to rest."

Wikstroem said the family did not say whether a ransom had been paid, but she said: "I think that's the case. But I don't have it confirmed."

She said al-Yousifi called his children Friday morning after being freed. "This is a dream come true for them," she said. A spokeswoman for Sweden's National

Police also confirmed his release.
Al-Yousifi's kidnappers, who called themselves "The Martyr al-Isawy Brigades," had threatened to decapitate al-Yousifi if they weren't paid a \$3 million

gades," had threatened to decapitate al-Yousifi if they weren't paid a \$3 million ransom and given a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops. He was shown on a videotape broadcast

Feb. 17, an assault rifle pointed at his head, and in a videotape made public March 2 saying he expected to be killed.

He was shown pleading for his life and appealing to Pope John Paul II and Sweden's king to help win his release.

Al-Yousifi reportedly was the leader of an Iraqi political group, the Christian

Democratic Party.

Sweden's Foreign Ministry has been

tight-lipped about the case, saying only that it had been using diplomatic channels to negotiate al-Yousifi's release.

The Scandinavian country's ambassador to Iraq is based in neighboring Jordan. Wikstroem said al-Yousifi planned to

give a news conference Saturday in Baghdad.

More than 200 foreigners have been kidnapped in Iraq, and more than 30 have

been killed.

An Italian journalist, Giuliana Sgrena,

An Italian journalist, Giuliana Sgrena, was released two weeks ago after a month in captivity.



A soldier with Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment from the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division watches vehicles fine up across the Jisr Dylap Bridge in southeast Baghdad at a traffic checkpoint Wednesday. Hoping to keep terrorists from disrupting the two-day Transitional National Assembly meeting in Baghdad, 1rag police and U.S. soldiers beefed up security at two checkpoints that southeast Baghdad.

As Iraq's leaders meet, soldiers beef up security

BY VINCE LITTLE Stars and Stripes

JISR DIYALA, Iraq — Iraqi police and 3rd Infantry Divisios and Gera at Forward Operating Base Loyalty clamped down the main road this week, hoping to seal off a terrorist concentration to the south and prevent insurgents from disrupting the two-day Transitional National Assembly meetings in Baghdad.

"Ask anyone and they'll tell you, the bad guys are at Salman Pak," said Army Capt. Todd Smith of Mobile, Ala, commander of the 2nd Brigade's Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment, nicknamed the "Assassins."

"This mission is specific toward the TNA, and keeping them from heading north into Baghdad." he said.

The U.S. soldiers and local Iraqi police bolstered a traffic checkpoint on the south side of the Diyala River — which feeds into the Tigris to the west — and another about a 1½ miles away at the Jisr Diyala circle, a spot that's become a point of contention for coalition forces, Smith said.

Army officials believe terrorist

elements fled south to Salman Pak following last fall's military sweep of Fallujah.

"It seems the enemy really focuses on that traffic circle." Smith said. "They think if they can own it, it would be a symbol of their presence and influence in the area. We've made it a point to occupy that area quite a bit."

The company secured the location three hours before the national assembly got under way and three hours after the sessions ended

First Lt. Emory Hayes of Ellijay, Ga., the 1st Platoon leader, said his unit arrived on the circle at 4 a.m. both days. A relief platoon stuck around until about 8 p.m., but neither encountered any major contact.

"For the most part, when you present a force of more than just a patrol, those guys tend to scatter," Hayes said. "They don't mess with us."

Lucy, a mixed breed of Rottweiler and German shepherd, took part in Wednesday's traffic checkpoint at the Jisr Diyala Bridge. She sniffed vehicles for plastic explosives and detonating

ord. Her handler, Lorry Botha, a U.S. contractor from South Africa, said if the Iraqi police or U.S. soldiers think a car looks suspicious, they call on Lucy.

Nothing turned up during the two-day search.

Botha and Lucy live on Forward Operating Base Hope, but they're used throughout the 2nd Brigade area, which also includes Loyalty and Rustamiyah.

Śince arriving in Traq about two mouths ago, Company A has engaged in several joint ventures with local police in southeast Baghdad, including dismounted patrols, intelligence-gathering and the checkpoints. The two sides are planning future raids, Smith said

Last year, a Washington state National Guard unit monitoring the bridge's checkpoint for the 1st Cavalry Division had a lengthy firefight against terrorist forces along the river. So far, the scene has been quiet for the 1st Battal-

"We've had [a roadside bomb] go off on us. No one got hurt," Smith said. "But any time we've responded to a situation, everybody leaves. No one's really tried us yet."

E-mail Vince Little at:





PHOTOS BY VINCE LITTLE/Stars and Stripes

Top: An Iraqi policeman searches the back of a vehicle as soldiers secure the checkpoint at Jisr Diyals Bridge on Wednesday, Above: Lucy, a mixed breed of Rottweiler and German shepherd, sniffs a vehicle for plastic explosives and detonating; chord Wednesday. Her handler, Lorry Botha, a U.S. contractor from South Africa who works for Canine Associates International, saft the dogs are used throughout the 2 nd Brigade area, which covers forward operating bases Loyalty, Rustamiwah and Hooe.

Army orders more tourniquets for deployed troops

BY TOM BOWMAN The (Baltimore) Sun

WASHINGTON — The Army has ordered an additional 172,000 modern tourniquets for soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, and will begin distributing them next month, with the expectation that each soldier will be equipped with the life-saving device sometime this summer, officials said.

"We anticipate theater-wide distribution beginning in mid-April with completion in three or four months, by July or August," said Cynthia Vaughan, a spokesperson for the Army surgeon general.

There are currently about 44,000 tourni-

quets on hand or on order, officials said, and the manufacturer said a plant in South Carolina has hired additional workers to produce the increased numbers. The Army is expected to request an additional number of the tourniquets so thousands of soldiers set to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan later this year will have them in new medical kits.

Since at least a month before the war in Iraq began, medical experts in the Army and other services called on the Pentagon to equip every American soldier in the war zone with a modern tourniquet. The simple first aid devices could all but eliminate deaths caused by blood loss from extremity wounds. they arene. which oversees combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, issued a directive Jan. 6 requiring soldiers to carry them, compliance was left up to the individual units and many did not acquire the devices. One obstacle was that the military wanted to first develop new training manuals and a pouch for carrying the tourniquet, a process expected to take months.

After The Sun highlighted the lack of modern tourniquets for soldiers in an article on March 6, members of Congress last week wrote to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and urged faster action.

"Holding up the fielding of a life-saving

medical kit simply to optimize its carrying pouch suggests a mind-set oblivious to the wartime needs of our soldiers," wrote two Senate Democrats, Richard J. Durbin of Illinois and Carl Levin of Michigan.

Army Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, this week lauded the Army's fast action on the modern tourniquets

"Everybody's aware of it and everybody will push for this, which is a good thing," he said.

After Rumsfeld received the senators' letter, the Army decided to expedite the tourniquet without waiting for field testing of the new kits, said the Army surgeon general's office.

Bazaar dealers come to troops in Afghanistan

BY KENT HARRIS Stars and Stripes

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan - Once every week, U.S. ser-vicemembers get a chance to browse through local merchandise without crossing the perimeter fence

Friday is bazaar day at American compounds in Bagram and Kabul. Dozens of local merchants

set up stalls at designated spots with the goal of separating Americans from their dollars. In return vendors the offer carpets.

scarves, jewelswords knives and various items made from wood brass and stone. Sgt. 1st Class

Napoleon Cunningham, a soldier from Babenhausen, Germasaid he's been in country only about three weeks.

"I've been here every week that I've been Bagram]," he said, motioning to the nearby stalls that his wife in Germany. were somewhat

hidden under a series of plastic covers designed to keep out most

Set. 1st Class Nanoleon

Cunningham takes advantage of

He was the one shopping, but his wife, Michaela, back in Ger-

many was the one benefiting.
"It's basically all for her," he said of the bag in his hand. "Ex-

Yes, the movies. The DVDs, featuring hundreds of options from American television and cinema, obviously aren't of Afghan origin. Some of those around the bazaar say the DVDs are probably from Pakistan

Some are pretty good copies. buyers say. Others aren't. But because it costs just a few dollars to

get DVDs that sometimes feature four or five movies - includsome still making first runs in the States not many custom-

ers seem to be

complaining. haven't tried mine yet,' Chief Warrant Officer 3 Rogel Pagaduan said. He was referring to DVDs he had bought a week earlier. This week, he paid each for

three blankets. "I think it's a pretty good deal," he said.

But maybe not as good as the one Capt. Peter Santos said he got. He purthe bazaar Friday on Bagram Air Base to buy gifts to send back to chased five

carved wooden chests each personally engraved with a name

- for much less than he would have paid in Germany.

"I'm going to come and pick them up in two weeks," he said. "I got one for each member of my



Above: The bazaar at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, features a wide array of goods from local vendors. Bazaars are held every Friday at Bagram and Kabul, and on Saturdays at Kandahar. Below: Soldiers carry away treasures bought at the bazaar.

Many purchases come after some haggling. The buyers often end up paying more than they would if they were in a village off base, but those kinds of shopping opportunities come rarely, it ever. The sellers admit they're making more off the troops than they could off base

"I can sell more here." said Avatollah Noure, who was offering a variety of locally made carpets He characterized business as "not had "

He said some of the carpets he sells take a month to make. Some take three months. Like many merchants, he spends about half the week selling wares at different coalition military compounds around the region.

Maj. John Tammes said the bazaar is a good deal for merchants, servicemembers and local villages. Merchants pay the equivalent of about \$180 each time they come on base. The military puts that money into a local bank before using it to fund a variety of local projects.

He said there are 133 total slots for merchants at Bagram, with most limited to selling their goods every two weeks. They often line up their trucks on Thursday afternoons outside the gate to get a good spot for the next day.



Staff Sgt. Clint Kramer said a group of soldiers at Bagram takes a look at the merchandise before it goes on sale.

We walk through to make sure they aren't selling merchandise that's prohibited and not going to clear customs " he said

Even those responsible for checking items get a chance to

There's a lot of good junk out there," said Spc. Don Henry, a member of Kramer's customs crew.

Two men indicted in \$4M KBR contract fraud case Employee, accomplice allegedly inflated price of supplying

fuel tankers for military operations in Kuwait in 2003

BY CHARLES R. BABCOCK The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A former manager for a Halliburton Co. subsidiary and an alleged accomplice in Kuwait defrauded the U.S. government out of nearly \$4 million by inflating the price of supplying fuel tankers for military operations in Kuwait in 2003, prosecutors said Thursday.

The 10-count indictment, returned Wednesday by a federal grand jury in Illinois, is believed to be the first criminal case of contracting fraud stemming from the war in Iraq, officials said. Halliburton, which Vice President Dick Chenev headed from 1995 to

2000, is one of the government's largest contractors there.

Jan Paul Miller, the U.S. attorney for the Central District of Illinois, said in an interview that the investigation began about a year ago after Kellogg Brown & Root Inc., which holds a giant logistics contract to supply military needs in the Middle East, informed the government it had suspicions of wrongdoing.

According to the indictment. Jeff Alex Mazon, 36, who worked for KBR in Kuwait, schemed with Ali Hijazi, of La Nouvelle General Trading & Contracting Co., to assure La Nouvelle would win a contract for storing and dispensing fuel at a military airport in Ku-wait. KBR had estimated the work would cost about \$685,000, and La Nouvelle bid \$1.67 million, the government said. Mazon then allegedly inflated that and another bid by a factor of 3.3 and awarded the contract to Hijazi's firm for \$5.5 million - nearly \$4 million more than the company's

original bid

Around September 2003, soon after Mazon left KBR, Hijazi allegedly gave Mazon a \$1 million check for his favorable treatment of La Nouvelle.

Each man was charged with four counts of fraud against the United States and six counts of wire fraud.

Mazon who was arrested Wednesday in Georgia, appeared in court Thursday in Atlanta before being sent to Illinois for an arraignment hearing, according to

Sharon Paul, a spokeswoman for Miller's office

An Army command in Rock Island, Ill., administered the logistics contract.

Democrats in Congress have criticized Halliburton's work supporting the war in Iraq, especially a separate \$2.5 billion no-bid contract to repair oil fields. Auditors turned up \$1.8 billion in "unsupported costs" in the \$10.5 billion logistics contract cited in the indictment, which KBR won on a competitive bid. Despite those findings and a recommendation to withhold some of the payments, the Army decided month to continue paying Halliburton in full, plus performance

honuses

'America, you have a recruiting problem'

Army vice chief of staff says he's worried about the future of all-volunteer military force

BY JON R. ANDERSON Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON - The Army's vice chief of staff says he's been losing sleep lately over the future of the all-volunteer

"What keens me awake at night is what this all-volunteer force will look like in 2007," Gen. Richard Cody told lawmakers recently on Capital Hill. It's a concern others should share, he says,

"I think it ought to keep all of you awake," he told a gathering of reporters Wednesday

Nearly 31 years since it replaced the draft Army of both world wars, Korea and Vietnam, the all-volunteer force is facing its first real test, Cody said.
"This is the first time we've taken the

all-volunteer force into an extended fight, Cody said. "It's not a Kosovo, it's not a Bos nia, it's not a [Multinational Force and Observers peacekeeping mission1 in the Sinai," he said, "It is a war. On any given we have 156,000 soldiers for 12 months in a combat zone, as well as - still — all those other commitments "

It's a pace that could be crippling, he

"I worry about the soldiers with their second and third tour by '07 since 9/11." Cody

said Indeed, for the first time since Vietnam, the sheer volume of operations means even relatively junior troops are already becoming veterans of multiple combat tours. Soldiers who served as privates in the 3rd Infantry Division as it invaded Iraq, for example, are now returning to Iraq as corporals and sergeants

The all-volunteer force was born on July 1, 1973, in the wake of years of protest against the draft during the war in Vietnam. Ever since, the Army has traded or-ders to serve for "Be all you can be" and, more recently, "Army of One" advertising campaigns to convince young Americans to raise their right hands and wear the uni-

But two years into the war in Iraq, recruiting efforts are beginning to show cracks

For the first two months of the year, both Army and Marine Corps recruiters have failed to meet their quotas to sign up new volunteers.

Selling service

"That, correctly so, is a concern," Gen Peter Pace, the vice chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff told Pentagon employees Friday during a town hall meeting While he said more recruiters and adver-



REEBA CRITSER/Courtesy of the U.S. Arm

Gen. Richard A. Cody's two sons, Capt. Clint Cody, left, and Capt. Tyler Cody, both with the 101st Airborne Division, pin four stars on his shoulders at the Pentagon auditorium July 2, 2004. Cody's sons, as well as three nephews who are also in the Army, offer the general good intelligence on what troops are talking about.

Sons, nephews help Cody keep tabs

Gen. Richard Cody has a small squad of scouts scattered among Army units sending him muddy boots-level intelligence on what the troops are talking

"I have the fortune of having these young leaders, who happen to be my sons and nephews, that talk to me about their soldiers," the Army's vice chief of staff said Thursday.

combat vets in the 101st Airborne Division. One is getting ready for his second combat tour, the other his third tising dollars are being thrown into the mix

to help tilt the balance, Pace encouraged

"All of us should be talking about the value of service to country," Pace said.

"Not just about military service to country.

but about young folks finding a niche in

this society where they can serve the coun-

try for some time, in my mind, pay back a

little bit what they've gotten from this coun-

young folks is what he calls the "influenc-

Cody agrees. And key for convincing

"We're seeing right now mothers and fa-

thers and school teachers and other influ-

everyone in uniform to help in the effort.

Cody also has three nephews wearing Army green as well. One of them is down-

"So I get some direct input," Cody said. His boys offer glimpses of what troops wrestle with the traditional chain of command could never offer.

"There's not many layers between a fa-ther and his sons," Cody said. "I get some pretty good insights as to what's botherheir soldiers, why their soldiers would reenlist and why they won't reen-

encers that maybe are not talking about encers that maybe are not tanking about service to this nation," Cody said. "So, when you say, 'Army, you have a recruit-ing problem,' I say, 'America, you have a recruiting problem." recruiting problem

In the end, says Cody, it comes down to simple questions like, "What kind of Army do you want to have? Is service to this country important to you?'

Stretching the force

For those already in uniform, Cody said the Army must do a better job of providing good housing and basic quality of life, espe cially as the service adds 30,000 soldiers to its active ranks and 70,000 troops now forward-based in Europe and Asia are repositioned back to the United States.

"The net result is going to have 100,000 more soldiers back in the continental United States on the active side," said Cody, adding that existing bases will have to be expanded to handle the influx.

This comes, he said, even as the Army has had to mortgage base maintenance accounts to help fund the war in Iraq.

The Army he said has cut base funding

by 30 percent. Four weeks ago, however, Army leaders decided to tighten their belt in other areas and have come up with about \$3 billion to reduce the base mainte-

nance shortfall to 10 percent.

Meanwhile, the basic tools of the trade have taken a beating as well.

Cody said the Army has lost 79 aircraft. three companies worth of tanks, and three companies worth Bradley Fighting Vehicles over the past three and half years of non-stop combat that began with the invasion of Afghanistan.
"This fight," Cody said, "has taken a

If left unchecked, he said, that toll could have dire consequences.

"If we as a country don't show our appre-

ciation - and that appreciation is really in how well we resource them, how well we take care of the families, how well we get the balance right so that we can give some predictability into the Guard and Reserves as well as into our active force - then I think we will have stretched this all volunteer force.

While Cody stopped short of warning that the military could have to return to a draft, some experts say that may not be too far over the horizon.

Close to breaking

Some corners of Congress have already been calling for a draft for more than a vear now.

New York Rep. Charles Rangel, a Demo-crat, introduced legislation last year call-ing for exactly that. Although his bill made no headway, the issue continues to receive debate as the war in Iraq drags on.
"The all-volunteer force is close to break-

ing right now," said retired Maj. Gen. Edward Atkeson, now a prolific author on military affairs and a senior fellow at the Institute of Land Warfare. "When it does break, that's when you'll see the draft come back

Atkeson said cracks are already showing with the use of stop loss to keep troops in beyond their active contracts and massive reserve mobilizations.

"The worst-case scenario is that things just continue as they are.

Email Jon. R Anderson at:

New Englanders fear panel will target local bases

BY RYAN LENZ The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine - The absence of a New Englander on the commission named to review the Pentagon's list of proposed base closings has left the region without the leverage those pushing to keep bases alive fear they need.

The nine-member panel announced this week includes commissioners from California. Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Nevada, Texas, Utah and Virginia. While they bring a spectrum of experience and perspective, many argue that being unfamiliar with

New England could be detrimental to the decisions they make.

"The law is a very good means of making the nation swallow a bitter pill without blaming anybody ... but we don't know that we have commissioners who know the area," said William McDonough, a retired Navy captain with Save Our Shipvard, which has lobbied for months to save Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld must give a list of bases the Pentagon wants to close to the commission by May. The commissioners then review — and can change — the list before passing along final recommendation to President Bush.

The Portsmouth Naval Shipvard and Brunswick Naval Air Station in Maine and the Naval Submarine Base in Connecticut. as well as Hanscom Air Force Rase and Natick Labs in Massa. chusetts, have been mentioned as possible targets for closure.

But without a commissioner intimately familiar with those bases, the impact they have on surrounding communities and their importance in homeland defense missions, military analysts argue mistakes could be made in this year's closings.

"The commissioners will have a greater affinity for the places they know than for the places they don't," said Loren Thomp-son, of the Lexington Institute. who has predicted New England

to fare poorly. "It does further stack the deck State officials and congressional leaders of both parties from Maine to Connecticut have spent

months pushing for a New Englander to be appointed to the commission with hopes such a presence would stem base closures in the region.

Without such a representative. they feared efforts to save the region's military bases could fall on deaf ears once the Pentagon releases its list

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, who sits on the Senate's Armed Services Committee, and Sen. Olympia Snowe, said the nominations were disappointing. The Maine and New Hampshire delegations had nominated retired Lt. Gen. Robert Winglass and former congressman David Emery to represent the region.

There is so much at stake that I think it required and compelled the administration to include a rebalanced comission, Snowe said. "I think our nominees deserved to be considered.

DOD calls for universal early-retirement rules

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON - Defense Department officials want new early-retirement rules some incentives and some mandatory exits - for all four services as a long-term tool to help force efficiency.

The request to Congress comes just days after Marine and Army officials announced they missed recruiting goals for February. But Charles Abell, deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said the two issues are not connected

"These are for force-shaping," Abell told a House Armed Services subcommittee or Wednesday, "It is not about getting rid of folks. It's about keeping the right folks and right skill and experience mix.

44 It is not about aetting rid of folks. It's about keeping the right folks and right skill and experience mix.

deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness

The proposals all are aimed at 20-plus year military personnel, especially those in outdated or overpopulated specialties. They include:

- A buyout bonus or annuity for enlisted members;
- High-year tenure caps for officers, to apply to either certain specialties or across the board
- An early-retirement board scribed by Abell as a "last resort" measure that would review senior officers' skills

and have the authority to hand out involun-

Abell said all four proposals likely aren't needed to achieve the force-shaping goals: If the new high-tenure caps are approved by Congress, the early retirement board would likely be redundant.

And he acknowledged that many of the proposals will be unpopular among career military who would be forced out of their

"This is about the appropriate manage-

ment of human capital," he said. "And we've found that when you have these authorities out there, people start making their own decisions ahead of time.

"This is just putting more tools in the toolbox," he said.

Abell said all four services have request-

ed the tools, though the Navy and Air Force are more likely to use the authority in the near future.

Air Force officials have pledged to drop their end strength by about 7,000 airmen by June 1, and are scheduled to trim anoth-er 2,300 in 2006. Meanwhile, Navy officials plan on reducing their sailor totals by more than 13,000 next year.

Meanwhile, the Marines plan on adding 3,000 more personnel in 2006, and the Army is scheduled to add about 30,000 soldiers over the next several years

F-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@strines.osd.mi



Jeff Shaara, author of "God and Generals," poses for a photograph at historic Chatham in Fredericksburg, Va. He visited the historic Georgian-style mansion in southern Stafford this weekend because funding woes had forced Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park to close Chatham except on weekends.

Battle for Spotsylvania

Article focuses on saving Civil War battlefields

BY RUSTY DENNEN The (Fredricksburg, Va.) Free Lance-Star

SPOTSYLVANIA, Va. - National Geographic magazine has put Spotsylvania

County on the map. In the just-released April issue, the county is featured prominently in a 23-page story about Civil War battlefields being

gobbled up by sprawl. "Civil War Battlefields: Saving the Land-

scapes of America's Deadliest War," by Adam Goodheart, will go to the magazine's 6.6 million-plus subscribers worldwide. Goodheart quickly puts Spotsylvania's

wartime role, and subsequent preservation challenges, in perspective. "Places that were at the front lines 140

vears ago - Manassas, Antietam, Gettysburg — are at the front lines again today. he wrote. "Exactly at a moment when Americans seem more interested than ever in finding connections to the wartime past, much of that past is in danger of being lost. Nowhere is this more true than in Spotsylvania County

With a population topping 112,000, it is

the state's third-fastest growing county Last summer, Goodheart donned a Confederate uniform to take part in a re-enactment of the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, held at Belvedere Plantation, a farm in the county's New Post area.

He stopped at well-known local Civil Salem Church, Jackson's Flank Attack, and Chancellorsville - accompanied by John Hennessy, chief historian of Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park.

"I think this is one of the first times in a popular forum that Spotsylvania has been so rightly identified as the cradle of so much that was significant" during the war, Hennessy said.

"My greatest hope for an article like this is that people in the community will read it. Sometimes when you live here you don't realize what a big deal it is," Hennessy said. "All of us live in the midst of something that is incredibly significant" and disannearing.

Salem Church — where Confederates led by Gen. Robert E. Lee stopped Union army Gen. John Sedgwick's advance during the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863 - is an example, and something not lost on visitors

"The church is almost invisible now Hennessy said, and a handsome stone monument across State Route 3 is practically lost in the traffic congestion. Hennessy said no one — not the community, not the Park Service, not the county — realized what was happening there until it was too

Diplomat and Pulitzer Prize winner Kennan dead at 101

PRINCETON, N.J. - In 1947, diplomat George F. Kennan wrote an article that would guide America's postwar policy for decades

He proposed - in the unsigned piece that the United States stop the global spread of Communism through ideology and politics, not war.

The policy came to be known as "containment" and Kennan went on to become a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian.

Kennan, called a role model by his peers in the foreign service, died Thursday night at his Princeton home, said his son-in-law, Kevin Delany of Washington. He was 101.

"He was a giant. Many people have called him the most important foreign service officer of the past half-century," Dela-

"He was a very thoughtful man with an elegant writing style."

Identified only as "X." Kennan laid out the general lines of the containment policy in the journal "Foreign Affairs" in 1947, when he was chief of the State Department's policy planning staff.

Despite the "X" article and his work in formulating the Marshall Plan, Kennan lost influence rapidly after Dean Acheson was appointed secretary of state in 1949 After a difference of opinion on Germany - Kennan favored reunification his sune riors did not - he took a leave of absence

vanced Studies in Princeton.

He was appointed ambassador to Moscow in May 1952 but was declared "persona non grata" within a year. He resigned from the foreign service in 1953 because of differences with the new secretary, John Foster Dulles.

During his years out of the foreign service. Kennan won the

Pulitzer Prize for his-

tory and a National

Book Award for "Russia Leaves the War.

Pulitzer Prize in 1967 for "Memoirs, 1925-1950." A second

volume, taking his

reminiscences un to

published in 1956. He again won the



1963, appeared 1972 Among his other books was "Sketches from a Life."

nublished in 1989 Kennan returned to the foreign service

in the Kennedy administration, serving as ambassador to Yugoslavia from 1961-63. In 1967, he was assigned to meet Svetla-

na Alliluyeva, the daughter of Josef Stalin, in Switzerland and helped persuade her to come to the United States.

Kennan is survived by his wife. Annelise, whom he married in 1931. They had three daughters and a son.

Man sorry for selling Army IDs ARLINGTON, Va. - A man suspected

of selling U.S. Army identification cards to nonmilitary personnel apologized Wednesday and said he would plead guilty to federal charges at his next court

Yusuf Kahlil Jackson, 22, told WJLA television that he sold the cards because he was homeless and had no money.

"I was really desperate," Jackson said. "I really want to apologize to all the service members and anyone affiliated with the Army."

Jackson worked at Fort Myer as an employee of a contractor that produced cards allowing access to U.S. military bases worldwide

Court documents show that Jackson used his position to produce at least 30 au-thentic ID cards and sold them to people who were not in the military

Navy to reopen testing range

CHANCE, Md. - About 200 residents of neighboring areas of Bloodsworth Island questioned Navy officials about plans to resume military exercises on the Chesapeake Bay island, expressing con-cerns about safety and the effect on the environment.

The Navy is considering reopening the Bloodsworth range to test weapons used by jet fighters and bombers. The island is one of several bay target areas used in past years

Navy officials tried to reassure residents on Monday that safety topped their

"I am here to dispel the myth that live ordnance is going to be used," said Mike Johnston of the Naval Air Warfare Center Atlantic Test Ranges

From The Associated Press

IN THE STATES

Judge orders removal of Schiavo's feeding tube

Congress reportedly subpoenas brain-damaged Fla. woman

PINELLAS PARK, Fla. - The presiding judge in the case of Terri Schiavo ruled Friday that the feeding tube keeping the brain-damaged woman alive must be removed, despite efforts by congressional Republicans to block the move by seeking her appearance at hearings

Pinellas Circuit Judge George Greer refused a request from U.S. House attorneys to delay the remov-al, which he had previously ordered to take place at 1 p.m. EST. Greer determined that it should go forward about an hour after another judge issued a temporary delay blocking the tube's removal

"I have had no cogent reason why the [congressional] committee should intervene," Greer told attorneys in a conference call, adding that last-minute action by Congress does not invalidate years of court rulings.

There was no immediate word on when the tube might be removed

Attorneys seeking to block the removal vowed to

Michael Schiavo has waged a yearslong court battle with his parents-in-law, contending his wife, who doctors say has been in a persistent vegetative state since 1990, would not want to live that way. Her parents dispute that, and say she could get better

The tube has been removed twice in the past and then reinserted as the battle continued.

Friday's ruling came after U.S. Senate and House committees in the Republican-controlled Congress issued subpoenas for Schiavo, her husband, and her caregivers to appear at hearings on March 25 and March 28, which would in effect keep her alive for the time heing

The Pinellas Park hospice where Schiavo lives received a subpoena Friday morning, spokeswoman Louise Cleary said. Officials there did not say who was subpoenaed or disclose their next steps.



A Florida Circuit Court judge ordered the removal of a feeding tube fo Terri Schiavo, pictured above with her mother. Earlier Friday, U.S. Senate Republicans reportedly issued subpoenas for Schiavo and her husband to testify before the Health Committee.

House, Senate pass conflicting budget legislation

BY ALAN FRAM The Associated Press

WASHINGTON ate-passed \$2.6 trillion budget that ignores President Bush's proposal to wring savings from Medicaid is just one step in Congress' protracted effort to make fiscal decisions for next year, White House spokesman Scott McClel-lan said Friday.

McClellan made his remark the morning after the House and Senate approved dueling budgets divergent appetites Bush's recipe of curbing rampant grams for the first time since The House's outline endorsed even deeper reductions in Medicaid and other programs than Bush proposed.

"Congress is still working on an agreement for a budget frame-work," McClellan told reporters traveling with Bush on Air Force One to Florida. "There's still a legislative process to go."

The House budget would cull up to \$20 billion from planned Medicaid spending over the next five years, a 1 percent reduction that would more than double what

it seeks \$69 billion in reductions from agriculture, student loans and other benefits, \$18 billion more than Rush But in the Senate, rebellious

moderate Republicans joined Democrats in voting 52-48 to eliminste all \$14 billion in Medicaid savings that chamber's budget had proposed. Senators also voted to roll back Bush's plans to cut billions of dollars from education community development, water projects and other programs.

"It is not the bill I would have chosen if I'd had a magic wand,' Chairman Judd Gregg, R-N.H. "But this is the middle of the process and I hope it will im-

prove Highlighting unease by Republicans in both chambers, the House plan was approved by 218-214, while the Senate's squeaked through on a 51-49 vote.

With an 11th-hour amendment nearly doubling the size of the Senate hudget's tay cuts four moderate Republicans voted "no" and Vice President Dick Cheney was on hand in case he was needed to break a tie vote.

Bush proposed cutting from education and local police, fire and emergency workers. They also voted to kill Bush's plan to combine community develop-ment block grants, a favorite of many mayors, with dozens of other programs and cutting them by about \$2 billion.

The budget sets overall tax and spending targets for later bills that make actual changes in pro-grams and tax laws. Some policies the budget suggests may never be enacted, though the votes often are precursors for what lawmakers eventually do.



Lil' Kim, whose real name is Kimberly Jones leaves Manhattan federal court Thursday in New York. Kim was convicted of perjury and conspiracy in connection with a shootout outside a Manhattan radio station in 2001.

Rapper Lil' Kim facing jail time for perjury conviction

BY LARRY NEUMEISTER The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Grammy-winning hip-hop star Lil' Kim could face years in prison when she is sentenced in June for lying about a shootout outside a radio station

Her convictions Thursday on three counts of perjury and one of conspiracy each carry terms of up to five years in prison, but as a first-time offender she was expected to receive far less than 20 years. Any term would make her the first major female rapper to do time.

The 29-year-old performer, known for her

raunchy raps and revealing outfits, was acquitted of obstruction of justice. She and her assistant, who also was convict-

ed, shook their heads as the verdicts were delivered, and supporters broke out in sobs.

Lil' Kim declined to comment outside court, but in a statement issued later, she said she

was "disappointed" by the verdict.
"Throughout my life, I have always lived with adversity and will continue to have faith and do good for my family, friends and fans,' she said

Both women are free on bond and will be sentenced June 24.

The former sidekick and girlfriend of the late Notorious B.I.G. had testified that she didn't notice two close friends at the scene of the 2001 gun battle — her manager, Damion Butler, and Suif "Gutta" Jackson. Both men have since pleaded guilty to gun charges.

The shootout occurred outside WQHT, known as Hot 97, when Lil' Kim's entourage crossed paths with a rival rap group, Capone-N-Noreaga. Kim's entourage confronted them about the song "Bang, Bang" from a Ca-pone-N-Noreaga album, which contained a scathing insult to Kim from her longtime rival, Foxy Brown. A shootout erupted, leaving one man injured.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Cathy Seibel told jurors that the 4-foot-11 Lil' Kim had repeatedly lied to them, just as she did to the grand jury

The prosecutor belittled the defense claim that the sunglasses-wearing Lil' Kim didn't notice her two close friends at the scene of the crime. "You would have to believe they were magic sunglasses that only block out your friends who were shooting people," Seibel told the jury.

Hot 97 is the same station where the posses of 50 Cent and The Game traded bullets last

Sharon to visit U.S.

WASHINGTON — President Bush will host Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon at his Texas ranch on April 11 to help advance the Middle East peace process, the White House said Friday.

Invitations to the president's private ranch at Crawford, Texas, typically are reserved for top diplomatic efforts, and this one comes as Bush has been citing progress in the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

"The president looks for-ward to discussing with Prime Minister Sharon a wide range of key bilateral and regional issues, including the search for peace in the Middle East and the war on terrorism," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said in a statement.

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas plans to visit Bush in Washington in coming weeks. Abbas would be the first Palestinian leader to visit the U.S. capital since the outbreak of Palestinian-Israeli violence in September 2000.

From The Associated Press

organize an Islamic service

NEW YORK - Even as Amina Wadud was preparing to lead an Islamic prayer service, her plans drew sharp criticism from Muslim religious leaders in the Middle East

Wadud, a professor of Islamic studies at Virginia Commonwealth University, was scheduled to lead a two-hour service Friday at Synod House at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Manhattan.

The event was meant to draw attention to the "sec-ond-class status" of women in Muslim spiritual life and Muslim life in general, said Asra Q. Nomani an author and former Wall Street Journal reporter who is lead organizer of the

prayer. We are taking actions that no one else would have dared to think about before," she told The New York Times for Fri-day editions. "Nobody cared that we didn't have a place in

Muslim leaders denounced the plans.

The sheik of Cairo's Al-Azhar mosque, one of the top world's Islamic institu-tions, said Islam permits women to lead other women in prayer but not a congregation with men in it.

"A woman's body is pri-vate," Sheik Sayed Tantawi wrote in a column in the Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram in which he was asked about Wadud's planned prayer. "When she leads men in prayer, in this case, it's not proper for them to look at the woman whose body is in front of them. Even if they see it in their daily life, it shouldn't be in situations of worship, where the main point is humility and modesty Muslim leaders in New

York were also wary of the

plan.
"My concern is a backlash, head Aisha al-Adawiya, head of New York-based Women in Islam, told the Times. "This kind of change has to come from within the community. It's being driven from outside."

Some critics have accused Nomani of using the event to publicize a book she has written about women and Islam

Woman toLetterman worker charged in plot

Man charged in plan to kidnap kidnap 'Late Show' host's baby

BY JOHN MACDONALD The Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. - David Letand his girlfriend thanked law enforcement officials for uncovering a plot to kidnap their 16-month-old son from their Montana ranch, saying they

were "forev-er grateful." The man charged Thursday with hatchthe scheme, A. Kelly Frank worked as a painter at the talk-show host's

ing

2,700-acre spread near the rugged Rocky Mountain Front. The 43-year-old Frank, according to police, had planned to hold the boy and his

In a statement issued by the publicist for Letterman's production company, World Wide Pants, Letterman and his girlfriend, Re-

nanny for \$5 million ransom.

gina Lasko, praised the FBI and local authorities.

"We will be forever grateful for their tireless efforts and determination to vigorously pursue this situation," the couple said in the statement

Steven Rubenstein, a spokesman for World Wide Pants, said he could not comment on whether Letterman's family was in Montana at the time of Frank's arrest.

Mike Ferriter of the state Deartment of Corrections said Frank had been working as a painter at Letterman's ranch west of Choteau in north-central Montana and apparently confided in an acquaintance earlier this month of his plan to kidnap Letterman's son and nanny for ransom. According to the affidavit filed

by Teton County Attorney Joe Coble, Frank had told the acquaintance that he knew Letterman and his family would be visiting their Montana home soon, and that Frank had a key to the house, knew where the baby slept and intended to kidnap the nanny "so that she could take care of the child

The acquaintance contacted au-



"Late Show" host David Letterman and his girlfriend. Regina Lasko. thanked authorities for their efforts. Police charged a man Thursday on allegations he was plotting to kidnap Letterman's young son and nanny from the talk-show host's Montana home.

thorities Sunday, according to the affidavit. Sheriff George Anderson told the weekly Choteau Acantha newspaper that Frank was arrested the following morning at another area ranch where he was working.

Besides the felony solicitation charge, Frank is charged with felony theft for allegedly overcharging Letterman for painting, and a misdemeanor charge of obstruction for lying to an investigator about the alleged plot.

Frank is jailed in neighboring Pondera County on \$600,000 bail. Associated Press writer Len Iwanski contributed to this story.

ATM 'card skimming' is growing problem

BY BEVERLEY WANG

The Associated Press

CONCORD N.H. - The recent theft of thou sands of dollars from people who used their debit cards at a Manchester ATM is one type of identity theft becoming more common as consumers increasingly rely on electronic transactions

The crime known "card skimming" takes three steps: Using scanners placed over ATM card slots, thieves steal account infor mation stored on a debit card's magnetic strip. A dummy num ber pad, camera or stealthy glance over a customer's shoulder captures the PIN.

Those who know where to look can easily find Web sites that sell blank magnetic cards and card-printing machines. "It's a very popular type of crime these days," said Connie Stratton, a senior assistant

attorney general in New Hampshire's consum er protection bureau. "Cards are simple to make," she said.

"You can buy bundles of cards on the Inter-

- you can buy them with the electronic strip on them, you can buy them with the strip not on them - there are a number of varieties."

Two women who used a Bank of America ATM on Monday at the T.J. Maxx plaza on South Willow Street reported having money withdrawn without their knowledge at a Saugus, Mass., ATM on Tuesday. One woman said \$4,500 was taken from her account, an-

other said \$1,900 was taken.

But according to Saugus police, at least six more people were victims of card skimming at that Manchester ATM. About \$15.000 was stolen.

said Saugus Detective Dana Bates. Bates said his department was looking into possible connections to the 30-some skimming complaints it had received since January. "It's been going up in the last six months,

I'll tell you that," he said.

Nationally, of 635,173 consumer complaints reported to the Federal Trade Commission last year, the greatest number by far - 39 percent - were related to identity theft, accord-

Superior Motors

ing to a February report. Broken down, 28 per cent of those complaints were for credit card fraud, 18 percent for bank fraud,

Manchester, Nashua, Concord, Dover and Salem are the state's top identity theft hotspots, with credit card and bank fraud tak-ing first and third place on the list of most reported identity theft complaints, according to the report.

The issue is a priority for New Hampshire

"There's a huge amount of resources being committed to identity theft prevention," said Jerry Little, president of the New Hampshire Bankers Association. Little said ATMs are checked daily during cash drops, but that customers also must look for signs of tampering.

'In ATMs, you need to look at the hardware and make sure it's what you recognize. If it doesn't feel right, don't use it," he said. Wireless technology and online marketplac-

es are making it easier to steal financial information, Little said, and thieves are now turning to a new target - gas stations that let customers pay at the pump. Thieves who manage to install wireless readers on a pump can easily steal credit card information to use or sell.

"The criminal can be sitting across the street in a parking lot with a laptop, reading the number instantly over a wireless phone line," Little said.



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Senior assistant attorney general,

N.H. consumer protection bureau

Connie Stratton

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44 I don't think anybody expected this. I can't sau I was runnina around planning it. I'd like to say that's how effective my method is. Look, man, I riveted the entire nation on - what did I rivet the entire nation's attention on? It's just

boilerplate now. ... There's no

analysis of the content

of what I said.

Ward Churchill University of Colorado professor



Professor tires of fight but stands by comment

The Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. - Stacks of papers sit on a sun-drenched table in the home of University of Colorado professor Ward Churchill, some full of praise and others full of dark threats and unprint-

able insults. In one message, liberal scholar Noam Chomsky calls Churchill's achievements of inestimable value, while an e-mail in another pile warns: "If you ever come to Florida, I will personally bash your [expletive] brains in

This is Churchill's new life: Since January, he has been at the center of a firestorm over free speech for likening some Sept. 11 victims to Adolf Eichmann, a Nazi architect of the Holo-

In a two-hour interview with The Associated Press. Churchill, 57, said he won't back down as the school investigates him to see if he can be fired. But he wearily acknowledged the uproar now dominates his life and makes it difficult to focus on his job as a tenured professor of ethnic studies.

In his essay written shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Churchill called some World manns." The essay drew scant attention until earlier this year, it resurfaced after Churchill was invited to speak at Hamilton College in upstate New York. Relatives of the dead and

44 It's not about me, and it's not about 'little Eichmanns,' either, ... That's why I'm so

in-your-face. You will not ignore this, purport to innocence while applauding

genocide. You may not be directly culpable,

but you're not innocent.

the governors of New York and Colorado denounced Churchill and the speech was canceled because of death threats against

Now, university administrators investigating Churchill's works to determine whether to recommend his dismissal. CU spokeswoman Pauline Hale said she could not comment on details.

be released March 28.

The latest charges are that Churchill plagiarized others' work and threatened physical violence against critics. He denies both claims, though he said he did threaten to sue a woman

he said was harassing his family and spreading lies

Churchill has many critics. some on his own campus.

He said his critics have mangled the facts in their rush to condemn him. He said the inquiry is not

merely an investigation of his work but a pretext for a broader campaign to discourage critical thinking and reduce higher education to "an advanced vo-tech" where students are taught skills useful to cornorations.

"It's not about me and it's not about 'little Eichmanns,' either," he said.

Churchill acknowledged he is confrontational when he tries to make Americans see

the attacks of Sept. 11 not as unprovoked assaults on an innocent people, but as the consequences of years of U.S. policies he likens to genocide.

"That's why in-your-face. You will not ignore this, purport to innocence while applauding genocide. You may not be directly culpable, but vou're not innocent." he said.

Rehnquest still debating return to bench

BY HOPE YEN The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, ailing with thyroid cancer, might return to the bench Monday when the Supreme Court comes back from a two-week break

Rehnquist, 80, hasn't decided whether to sit for arguments, court spokeswoman Kathy Arberg said Friday. She did not provide any update on his condition.

This is the first time in months

the court hasn't unequivocally declared Rehnquist would not be on the bench when justices hear arguments.

Rehnquist last sat for cases in the fall. He was hospitalized Oct. 22 and underwent a tracheotomy to help him breath.

He has been working regularly at the court for many weeks, pre siding over private meetings of the justices, reading transcripts of the arguments and voting on decisions, but not appearing for arguments.

Rehnquist, looking frail, made his first and only public appear-ance since the fall in January. when he swore in President Bush

Earlier this week, Rehnquist presided over a two-hour closed-door meeting of the Juditwo-hour. cial Conference of the United States, the policy-making body of the federal judiciary. Attendees say he showed good humor and

moved under his own strength. Rehnquist's illness has led to speculation that he will step down, giving the court its first opening since 1994.

Groups save horses bound for slaughter

BY SANDRA CHEREB The Associated Press

RENO, Nev. - Although a new law lets the federal government sell certain wild mustangs for horsemeat, the first ones auctioned off have been spared from the slaughterhouse.

The 200 animals from Nevada Wild Horses Wyoming bought from the Bureau of Land Management are roaming free on thousands of acres near Laramie

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for their meat.

up for sale are

captured dur-

wild population.

government

ing

sustain

animals

periodic

roundups aimed at reducing the

About 37,000 wild horses and

hurros mam the Western range

about 9.000 more than the BLM

has said the natural forage can

BLM and Interior Department

officials have said they hope to

find homes for horses affected by

the law. But wild horse advocates

have called the new law inhu-

mane and fear the animals will

end up as horsemeat for human

consumption overseas or as dog

Sean Mater, one of **Groups saving mustangs** five partners WILD THINGS: A new law in the compalets the federal government sell older and unwanted mustangs for their meat. The horses are Decem-

Congress during periodic government INITIAL SALE: The first 200 ban on slaughanimals sold by the Bureau of Land Management are roaming tang with a statfree on thousands of acres near ute that allows Laramie, Wyo.
REPEAT BUSINESS: Wild sale of

Horses Wyoming, the company that bought the mustangs, hopes to secure more land and eventually acquire up to 5,000 horses. - The Associated Press

Wild Horses Wyoming and rescue groups are trying to save the

horses by buying them.
Wild Horses Wyoming purchased the mustangs, all of them mares, for \$50 each. The sale was

announced March 1 Mater, who lives in Fort Collins, Colo., said the company hopes to secure more land and

eventually acquire up to 5,000 "That's our goal," said Bill Clark, a Fort Collins real estate

broker and another partner in the venture. The group is

soliciting money for its efforts by selling horse sponsorships.

Mater said the goal is to use sponsor ship money to acquire land that will sustain the horses for the rest of their lives

"Putting them on good rangeland al-lows them to forage themselves,

and remain in that same mode that they were in out on the range," he said.

Lifesavers Wild Horse Rescuers in Lancaster, Calif., has 120 horses on 46 acres of land, and plans to buy 10 mustangs under the new law, said Jill Starr, the group's leader

The Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary in Hot Springs, S.D., cares for 400 horses on 11,000 acres of privately owned land but has not immediate plans to take in more mustangs, office manager Pati Duff said

N.H. judge rules against gun picture in yearbook

CONCORD, N.H. - A high school senior's bid to have his shotgun in his yearbook portrait was rejected Thursday by a federal judge.

District Judge Steven McAuliffe ruled that Blake Douglass failed to prove that school of-ficials violated his First Amendment rights.

He said the decision to withhold publishing the picture was made by student editors, whose decisions are protected by the First Amendment

The boy's lawyer, who had maintained the school acted to ban the photo, said she would ap neal to a higher court if the Londonderry High School student decides to keep fighting the school

"I think the First U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals would like to hear from us," she said, "but it's going to be Blake's decision," his lawyer, Penny Dean said.

A telephone message left at the boy's home Thursday night was not returned immediately

Douglass, an avid trap shooter. wanted his broken-open shotgun over his shoulder the way he says seniors in earlier yearbooks have used musical instruments to illustrate their hobbies. The school recently banned all props from senior photos.

Douglass had maintained the decision was made by the yearbook's faculty adviser and other school officials, but McAuliffe found otherwise

The yearbook, he wrote, "is the product of volunteer efforts by students."

Last week, McAuliffe hinted that he would rule against the se nior when he congratulated him for bringing the case forward.

"I'm awful proud of you for bringing the case. You stood up for your First Amendment rights," McAuliffe told him. "If it doesn't go well for you, I want you to know you did the right thing."

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IN THE WORLD



French President Jacques Chirac, right, guides Russian President Vladimir Putin after lunch Friday at the Elysee Palace in Paris.

Putin holding talks with top European leaders

BY CHRISTINE OLLIVIER

PARIS — Russian President Vladimir Putin met with his French counterpart Jacques Chirac in Paris on Friday before informal talks with three European leaders on prickly issues such as democratic reform in Russia and the nuclear aspirations of

Chirac greeted Putin at the Elysee Palace, where military guards in plumed hats stood at attention. The two leaders were having lunch one-on-one — an opportunity for Chirac to raise difficult issues without putting Putin on the spot in front of others.

A full schedule was planned for Putin before the talks with Chirac, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and Spanish Prime MinMore world stories on Page 14

ister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapate-

At the Elysee, Putin and Chirac greeted Russian writers taking part in the annual Paris book fair. As a teenager, Chirac studied Russian and translated a few classics of the language, and Putin thanked him for his "love and de-

Later, Putin will have a private tour of a French defense center for air operations in Taverny, north of Paris. That visit was seen as a repaid favor after Chirac in April became the first Western leader to tour Russia's top-secret Titos vance control center.

Friendly persuasion were the bywords of the daylong visit.

France sees the outstretched hand as the best way to elicit change, especially since Russia is now at the European Union's door-

Eight former Soviet bloc countries joined the EU in May.

The three European leaders "consider that they must have a relationship of confidence with Russia and avoid ... a situation where Russia would be isolated," said Thomas Gomart, a specialist on Russia with the French Institute of International Relations.

A range of potentially sensitive issues were likely to be discussed during Friday's talks. They included Putin's perceived backsliding on democracy in Russia, as well as Iraq, the Middle East peace process and Iran's suspected nuclear program.

Prosecutors: Ukrainians smuggled arms to Iran, China

By ALEKSANDAR VASOVIC The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Ukrainian weapons dealers smuggled 18 nuclear-capable cruise missiles to Iran and China during Leonid Kuchma's rule, prosecutors said Friday, adding to mounting evidence of high-level corruption under the watch of the former leader already linked to possible illicit arms sales to Iraq.

The Associated Press had reported exclusively Feb. 3 that a government probe into lucrative illicit weapons sales by officials loyal to Kuchma had led to secret indictments or arrests of at least six arms dealers accused of selling missiles to Iran and China.

On Friday, the Prosecutor General's office said Kh55 cruise missiles were smuggled out of Ukraine four years ago.

"The proceedings against persons implicated have been forwarded to the Kiev Court of Appeals and are being heard behind closed doors," the statement said.

It was unclear how many people were implicated, and whether charges have been filed against them. Prosecutors said the missiles, which have a range of 1,860 miles, were sold illegally and were not exported by Ukrainian enterprises.

Last month, the AP reported that missiles smuggled out of Ukraine purportedly ended up in Iran and China, although export documents known as end-user certificates recorded the final recipient of some 20 KhSS missiles as "Russia's Defense Ministry," according to a letter written by a lawmaker to current President Viktor Yushchenko.

The letter, by lawmaker Hrihoriy Omelchenko, did not say what happened to the other missiles. The Kh55, known in the West as the AS-15, is designed to carry a nuclear warhead with a 200-kiloton yield. Omelchenko, who also serves as a reserve colonel in the intelligence service, had made his letters available to The Associated Press.

The missiles allegedly sold to Iran were unarmed. The United States accuses Iran of trying to develop a nuclear arms program—an allegation Tehran denies.

Iran does not operate long-range bombers but it is believed Tehran could adapt its Soviet-built Su-24 strike aircraft to launch the missile. The missile's range would put Israel and a number of other U.S. allies within reach.

China is a declared nuclear weapons state. In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry officials were not available for comment Friday.

Dutch man faces court in chemical weapons case

The Associated Pre

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — A Dutch businessman accused of complicity in genocide for selling chemicals to Iraq in the 1980s knew that Saddam Hussein might use them as weapons, prosecutors said at his first public hearing Friday.

The case is seen as a landmark because it would be the first time a businessman has been prosecuted for war crimes by a national court.

Frans van Anraat, 62, was not required to enter a plea or make a statement at the pretrial hearing.

He has acknowledged that he sold chemicals to Saddam's regime, but said his actions were neither wrong nor illegal.

The chemicals dealer is said to have exported tons of chemicals between 1984 and 1988 that were turned into mustard and nerve gas, some of which was used in the 1988 attack on the Kurdish town of Halabja where more than 5,000 people died.



Iraqi Kurds protest Friday outside the trial of accused chemicals dealer Frans van Anraat at the District Court in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

Prosecutor Fred Teeven said investigators had strong evidence that Van Anraat calmly went ahead with delivering such materials even after the gas attack on Halabja, the Dutch broadcaster NOS reported.

Several dozen expatriate Iraqi Kurds came to watch the proceedings, some carrying photographs of family members killed

EU seeks to sharpen its emergency military response

BY PAUL AMES
The Associated Press

LUXEMBOURG — European Union defense ministers opened talks Friday aiming to halve the time it takes to send elite battlegroups to international troublespots.

EU officials want to secure backing from ministers to ensure that the 1,500-strong rapid-response units which the EU is setting up to snuff out potential crises can be ready to deploy within five days of the bloc deciding to launch a mission.

The previous target was 10 days.

The EU agreed in November to set up 13 such battlegroups by 2007 as a key component of the bloc's drive to build up an effective military wing. The first such unit, led by Britain, is already primed for EU missions.

"It's important ... that we continue the work on European defense and in particular building capabilities," British Defense Secretary Geoffrey Hoon told reporters ahead of the meeting.

The ministers also will look at how to better coordinate the EU's military response to natural disasters in the light of the Asian tsunami disasters. EU officials were impressed by the rapid ability of U.S. military units to deploy to areas around the Indian Ocean hit by the waves.

Ministers will have a preliminary discussion on how Europe can more rapidly mobilize military resources to support civilian aid efforts in disaster areas.

New EU nations in eastern Europe are expected to press the bloc to consider a request from the Georgian government for the EU to help monitor Georgia's northern border with Russia.

Opposition from Moscow forced the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to end its six-year monitoring mission on the border. The Baltic states of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania are leading calls for the EU to take over the mission,

but other EU members are reluctant — fearing that could antagonize Moscow and further inflame tensions in the Caucasus.

Officials said the EU would likely send two or three observers to Georgia around the end of this month to establish a presence in the country. They did not rule out sending a larger mission.

However, European diplomats expressed hope the Georgian and Russian governments could agree themselves on measures to reduce tensions on the border, perhaps at a summit meeting in May.

Russia claimed the around 100 OSCE observers failed to stop Chechen rebels operating along the border, and refused to renew the mission's mandate.

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Blacks have opportunities

In response to "Why black enlistments dropped" (letter, March 14), I have seen nothing but positive steps in the services to promote and give career and educational opportunities to blacks as well as [those of different] nationalities.

To say that blacks can't overcome social and political elements due to their pigmentation is nothing more than an all-too-eager response to bring up feelings

that simply are not part of today's military. Military services promote blacks as much as their white counterparts. The military gives everyone excellent opportunities to better themselves. It is up to the individual to take those opportunities and utilize them

The military doesn't prevent you from feeling welcomed or accepted; you are keeping yourself that way with a negative point of view that is well left in the past.

Vanessa Rock Hohenfels, Germany

Don't include me in 'we'

In response to the writer of "Why black enlistments dropped" (letter, March 14), there are several things I need to make very clear

You raised your right hand; no one forced you to join. I'm really wondering if the writer read what he wrote before he sent it and, what is more disturbing, Stripes printed it.

Do not use the word "we"; you do not speak for me or blacks.

You might step to the side until being called upon, [but] I lead by example, that's from the front

What's this about "we" being exposed to the environment and situation at hand? Last time I checked, America elects its leaders and it did away with dictatorship, and you can practice the religion of your choice and say what you have said without fear of persecution.

I have no discontent or dissatisfaction; it's what you make of it.

Blacks have been attending institutions of higher learning; this is not something that just happened

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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Next time you are in your window to re-enlist, please don't. I think "we" can make it without you.

One more thing: one-parent household, four graduated from college.

Staff Sgt. Antonio D. Releford Schweinfurt, Germany

Proud to serve

I was disappointed to learn that the Army's bonuses and educational benefits do not "meet the standards" of [one letter writer's] "pride and dignity." ("Why black enlistments dropped," letter, March 14).

Perhaps I have lower standards. I am proud to serve my country and will re-enlist as soon as my window opens.

Sgt. James Anderson Camp Liberty, Iraq

Right to an opinion

I would like to respond to the recent letters concerning the comic "Doonesbury I have noticed that most of the recent let-

ter writers have missed out on the most important part of all this: Everyone has a right to their opinion whether you like it or

not. I personally do not like "Doonesbury' for its left-wing propaganda, but I will not request any paper to remove it from its editorial section because some people do like

I also believe in freedom of speech, which also entails with it the freedom to choose. I read a recent letter in which the author quoted a Vermont editor about "letters to the editor opening the mouths of fools." I would like to point out that this runs true on both sides, not just conservatives to which the letter writer was allud-

> Staff Sgt. Andres E. Redondo Camp Taji, Iraq

Combat arms troops special

I used to be in the infantry but I have changed my military occupational specialty to military police, and I do not think anyone but combat arms should get the Combat Infantryman Badge.

You may see combat several times, but that is not your job to do just that, and only that, if you are not combat arms. You are in support of some kind and you support the combat MOSs, and that is your job.

You do get a unit patch on your right sleeve signifying you were in a combat situation. Why is that not good enough?

If you are not in an MOS that trains only

for combat, then you are in a support position. The guys in combat MOSs deserve the extra award. They are different and special. I know that might be difficult to hear in this day and age when everyone [thinks they] deserve what everyone else

Everyone deserves awards for what they do above and beyond, and a lot of credit is due to all the support MOSs. Regardless of the situation, if I were to see combat now I would not deserve any extra award because I am in a combat support MOS and I support in any way I can. If that means standing right beside them, then that is where I will be.

If you are attached to an airborne unit, are you given airborne wings? Oh, that's right, you have to go to school first, thereby changing your MOS. So what is the difference? The answer: There is none. They are special, deal with it. Sgt. Joshua Frischman

Heidelberg, Germany

Doonesbury







AND JUST HOW

FORCE

WATCH

this?



Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY





Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons









PAT OLIPHANT/Universal Press Syndicat



Report: Groups plan underwater attacks

Philippine military details terrorist's scuba training

By JIM GOMEZ The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines of the most dangerous al-Qaidalinked groups in Southeast Asia are working together to train mili-tants in scuba diving for seaborne terror attacks, according to the in terrogation of a recently captured

The ominous development is outlined in a Philippine military report obtained Thursday by The Associated Press that also notes increasing collaboration among the Muslim militants in other areas, including financing and explosives, as extremists plot new ways to strike

In the past year, the Indonesia-based Jemaah Islamiyah has given Abu Sayyaf militants in the Philippines at least \$18,500 for explosives training, the report said.

The report comes a month after the U.S. Coast Guard announced it is seeking to better protect the nation's ports from terrorist attacks hy scuha divers by developing a sonar system that can distinguish human swimmers from dolphins.

Concerns about terrorist strikes by scuba divers were raised three years ago after the FBI announced it was investigating whether al-Oaida operatives took scuba training to help blow up ships at anchor, power plants, bridges, depots or other waterfront targets

Authorities fear scuba divers could target ships with more accuracy than a small explosive-laden boat like the one used in the USS Cole blast that killed 17 sailors in 2000 in Yemen.

According to the Philippine report, an Abu Sayyaf suspect in a deadly bus bombing in Manila on Feb. 14 - Gamal Baharan - described how he and other seasoned guerrillas took scuba diving lessons as part of a plot for an attack at sea.

Abu Sayyaf leaders Khaddafv

Janjalani and Abu Sulaiman initiated the training, Baharan said, adding that Janialani claimed to speak directly with al-Oaida lead-

er Osama bin Laden via satellite phone

Authorities couldn't verify any such conversations and said Janialani may have been boasting, according to Philippine military officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Baharan, 35, said he was told in October to undergo the scuba training in southwestern Palawan province, where he periodically received cell phone messages from Janjalani and Sulaiman him how many fathoms he would be able to dive." the report said.

The training was in preparation for a Jemaah Islamiyah bombing plot on unspecified targets outside the Philippines that require "underwater operation," Baharan is quoted as saying.

Jemaah Islamiyah has been blamed for a string of attacks in



Southeast Asia starting in 1999. Major strikes include the Aug. 5. 2003, bombing of the J.W. Marriott hotel in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, which killed 12 people, and the Oct. 12, 2002, bombings on Bali island that killed 202.

A military policeman guards bombing suspect Gamal Baharan at the Armed Forces headquarters north of Manila on Feb. 22. According to a Philippine military report, Baharan, an Abu Sayyaf suspect in a deadly bus bombing in Manila on Feb. 14. described how he and other guerrillas took scuba diving lessons as part of a plot for an attack at sea.

mostly foreign tourists.. Abu Sayyaf is known more for its kidnap-for-ransom schemes including many involving Ameri-

cans and Western tourists - and

conducting deadly raids against

Christian towns.

EU: Microsoft antitrust remedies aren't working

> BY RAF CASERT The Associated Press

BRUSSELS. Belgium -Corp.'s pledge to cooperate with last year's landmark European Union ruling against it "doesn't seem to be working at all" and could result in more fines, an EU official said Friday.

After hearing from Microsoft's competitors, the EU's antitrust office found that the system the company had set up to imnrove the interonerability between its Windows server and other software companies was insufficient

"Based on the market tests, it doesn't seem to be working at all," said EU spokesman Jonathan Todd EU antitrust regulators fined Microsoft

a record \$665 million when they ruled last March that Microsoft abusively wielded its Windows software monopoly and locked competitors out of the market It ordered remedies to give rivals better

access to Windows technological information, but it now says Microsoft is dragging

to have access to the technical information

Todd said it was difficult for competitors

needed to make a judgment whether to buy a license for it. He also said that Microsoft forced the ri-

vals to buy the full license package and did not allow companies to pick and choose what they needed. And the Commission felt the cost for the license was excessive.

The Commission can inflict additional unishment if necessary and fines against Microsoft could reach as high as 5 percent of daily sales.

Microsoft has always said it was doing its utmost to comply with the EU ruling. Spokesman Jim Desler confirmed that the company had received feedback from the European Commission about its plans for licensing certain software blueprints. But he would not say what specific changes regulators had asked for.

Desler said Microsoft was "grateful to re-ceive the feedback because it allows us to respond promptly and in an appropriate

The EU ruling also forces the company to offer an alternative Windows version for sale without its video and music Media Player application.

Friday's criticism did not address that issue, Todd said.

PARIS - Prime Minister Jean-Pierre

Landslide missing feared dead 'No' in France EU referendum?

ANKARA Turkey - Turkish authorities on Friday listed 15 people as missing and presumed dead, a day after a landslide buried more than 20 homes in central Turkey. Rivers of brown mud still flowing down

the snow-covered hills prevented rescuers from digging through the 49-foot thick mud to reach those buried in the village of

There is no hope of finding survivors any more, it would be a miracle," said Ali Ihsan Yener, an official in the town of Koyulhisar, some 12 miles from Sugozu.

Authorities had listed 16 people as missing on Thursday but Yener said one person was found alive elsewhere.

Raffarin said Friday that he is "preoccu-pied" but not worried by a poll that, for the first time, suggests the "no" vote could win in France's May referendum on the EU constitution. 'This hypothesis doesn't sadden me. It

reoccupies me but doesn't worry me, Raffarin said A poll by the CSA firm suggested that the ajority of French could vote against the

EU Constitution in the May 29 referendum. Still, recent polls have mostly shown solid support in the "yes" camp although suggesting rising momentum among oppo-

From The Associated Press



Alessandra Mussolini, granddaughter of Italy's fascist dictator, Benito Mussolini, gives the last touches to an election poster on her camper in Rome. Mussolini began a hunger strike in the camper on Monday to protest a court decision blocking her party from running in a regional election. An appeals court upheld the ruling Friday.

Court won't allow Mussolini's grandaughter to run for office

The Associated Press

ROME — An appeals court Friday up-held a ruling excluding Alessandra Mussolini, granddaughter of Italy's Fascist dictator, from running in a regional elec-

The flamboyant politician had been pro-testing an earlier decision to keep her off the ballot with a hunger strike involving a daily diet of three cappuccinos. When informed of the decision. Musso

lini threw her cell phone against the camper van outside the court where she has been living since beginning the hun-ger strike on Monday, the news agency ANSA reported Mussolini said that she would make an-

other appeal before leaving the site in a car, private Sky TG24 reported.

Mussolini, a deputy in the European Parliament, has been blocked from running in the Lazio region's ballot because of the alleged presence of hundreds of bogus voter signatures on the list of her party, Social Alternative. Each party has to submit at least 3,500 signatures of reg-istered voters to run for election in Lazio.

Mussolini has accused right-wing incumbent Francesco Storace of the National Alliance party, of instigating the investigation that led to her exclusion.

Two years ago, Mussolini left the Na-tional Alliance, part of Italy's center-right governing coalition, to start her own movement. She complained that National Alliance leader Gianfranco Fini had renounced the party's allegiance to Italy's Fascist past.

If allowed to run in the April 3-4 ballot, Mussolini could take a crucial 2 percent or 3 percent of the right-wing vote from

The case has sparked investigations into the possible presence of false signatures on party lists across the country be-fore elections in 14 of Italy's 20 regions. In Rome, the Interior Ministry an-In Rome, the Interior Ministry an-nounced Thursday that it was sending inspectors to registry offices to investigate



Toll-road blues

NH MERRIMACK -Local motorists are disappointed that the discount tokens they use to pay ramp tolls at three exits in town are one step closer to being eliminated

"The town of Merrimack is very disappointed that the House saw fit to eliminate the token and discount, Selectmen Chairman Dick Hinch said.

Merrimack motorists must pay 50-cent tolls at Exit 10, 11 and 12 of the Everett Turnpike, Eliminating the tokens is part of the plan to implement E-Z Pass in New Hamp-

"There has to be some consideration given to the residents of Merrimack, ... You pay to get out and you pay to get in. There is no other town in the state like it," Hinch said, calling the ramp tolls "un-

The legislation passed by the House would eliminate the highway tokens, which provide a 50 percent discount. The measure must be passed by the Senate and signed by the governor to take effect.

Schools scan visitors

HOUSTON - More than 400 schools in 14 districts in the Houston area have gone high-tech when it comes to identifying and keeping track of campus

The new system, called V-soft or visitor, student or faculty tracking — is a Web-based software program that can flag visitors who are known sex offenders. The system also keeps a log of when visitors arrive and leave campus, and alerts school officials to people who should not be on campus. The computer software gets visi-

tors' personal information by scanning their driver's license or state ID card. This information is checked against the Texas Department of Public Safety's database for registered sex offenders.

Sky-high deck to reopen

NY NEW YORK — A 70-story-high observation deck at Rockefeller Center will reopen this fall after a \$75 million renovation, the complex's co-owner said.

The deck, atop 30 Rockefeller Center, has been closed since 1986, when the Rainbow Room restaurant expanded into its space. It is expected to draw about 2 million visitors a year, according to Tishman Speyer Properties, co-owners of Rockefeller Center

Views from the open-air deck will encompass most of the city, including Central Park and the skyscrapers of midtown and lower Manhattan

At 850 feet above street level it will be the city's second-highest observatory (the highest is atop the Empire State Building, which is about 200 feet higher)

Smoking ban advances

TRENTON — Gamblers



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

smoke on Atlantic City casino floors or inside fraternal organizations under a measure passed by a New Jersey Senate committee

Lawmakers voted 7-0 for the measure, which also covers restaurants, bars and offices

Representatives from the Casino Association of New Jersey said a ban would drive away gamblers and harm the state's economy.

If the ban in New Jersev is passed, the state would join New York, Massachusetts, California and a handful of others that prohibit smoking in indoor public places.

Goat keeper charged

CHARLESTON — A man who allegedly left a trail of dead goats through several states has lost custody of his 200-plus remaining animals pending the outcome of animal cruelty cases in Ohio and West Virginia.

Christopher Weathersbee, 64, fled to West Virginia with 16 of his goats, including a dead one he'd been storing in a freezer, in late February amid an impoundment and seizure by agents in Scioto County, Ohio.

Ohio agents found an estimated 80 goat carcasses on his rented property - including one in the house and another nine in a freezer, according to Teresa Landon, director of the Ohio Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.



Reaching new height Dewan Commodore, a Middletown High School senior, clears a strap used for the bar as he practices his high-jump technique during the second week of spring training at would not be allowed to the school in Middletown, Ohio.

BOISE — Biologists with the Idaho National Guard have discovered a new species of fairy shrimp living in the oft-dry lake beds of Idaho's desert.

Though they look delicate enough to match their name, they are strong enough to survive, unhatched, for years in the baking heat of summer and the frozen tundra of winter until enough rain falls and the pools return. Once they awaken they live a few frenzied weeks, mating and leaving behind tiny cystlike offspring, then

"This is a large, predatory fairy shrimp. This guy is about 3 inches long. That is huge for a fairy shrimp," biologist Dana Ouinney said Tuesday during a news conference announcing the discovery.

Ex-dead man on mend

NC LOUISBURG — A man who was hit by a car and mistakenly declared dead is out of the hospital and continuing his recovery in a rehabilitation center. relatives said.

Larry Green was hit by a car the night of Jan. 24 as he walked home after buying beer.

Green, 29, was examined on the scene by paramedics and a medical examiner, declared dead and his body taken to a morgue. There, 21/2 hours after the accident, the same medical examiner detected signs of life. He was hospitalized.

Green suffered a severe head injury, broken leg and is paralyzed.

Two of the four paramedics who treated Green were fired and their credentials suspended, though the credential of one has been reinstated pending an administrative hearing. The other two were ordered to take remedial training. The medical examiner was not disciplined.

Abortion ban on hold

LANSING - A new state law that bans a procedure critics call partial-birth abortion will not take effect this month so that the state has more time to respond to a federal lawsuit challenging the statute.

Under an agreement reached by Attorney General Mike Cox and three groups that filed suit, the abortion law was put on hold until June 15. It was scheduled to take effect March 30.

spokeswoman Pierce said the state needed more time to respond to the suit, which was filed March 1.

The American Civil Liberties Union, the Center for Reproductive Rights and Planned Parenthood Federation of American argue the law is unconstitutional because it could be interpreted as a ban on all abortions and does not allow exceptions for when a mother's life or health are in danger.



Patty St. Onge gets a pull from her Just skijoring 20-month-old American water spaniel. Emma, as they go skijoring down a road in Maple, Wis.



Tulips are bloomin Kansas City.

A tulip tree blooms brightly along 44th Street at Warwick Rlvd in



Hut of sand Andy Briggs of Victoria, British Columbia, a sand artist with Sand Sculpture Company of Chicago, works on fine-tuning a beach hut made with 60 tons of riverbed sand on the exhibit floor at the Flower, Lawn & Carden Show in Kansas City, Mo



Get your frozen fish Jeff Kissinger pulls up a perch while ice fishing on Erie Canal Lock 2 in Waterford, N.Y.



Statuesque scene
A Keene State College student
walks past a sculpture by Rob
Lorenson titled "Aurora" on the
school's campus in Keene N.H.



Three-month-old calves lick milk from each other's faces on the Klodt Dairy Farm in Ottumwa, Iowa.

Photos just for fun

MN ST. PAUL — State Rep. Tom Rukavina urged Gov. Tim Pawlenty to remove from his official Web site a "Pawlenty Family Photo Album" containing 21 pictures of a pretty darn cute young future governor.

"I was a cute little baby, too," said Rukavina.

Rukavina contends that childhood pictures, which he views as designed to make folks feel warmer toward the governor, are a "totally inappropriate" form of self-promotion when posted on a taxpayer-financed Web site.

Pawlenty removed the pictures and playfully chided Rukavina for engaging in a trivial pursuit.

Lockdown unsuccessful

JESSUP — An inmate was stabbed with a shank hours after authorities lifted a monthlong prison lockdown that was imposed during an intensive search for such homemade weap-

The attacker had fashioned his weapon from a piece of metal in a light fixture, said Capt. Priscilla Doggett, spokeswoman for the Maryland Division of Correction

She said the victim was treated for a non-life-threatening wound he suffered in the attack. Both men are serving life sentences for homicides

Fight for job ends

LOUISVILLE — A former police officer fired after shooting a teenager during an undercover drug buy dropped his bid to return to the police force and will receive \$59,500 in back pay, city officials said

A statement from the mayor's office said McKenzie Mattingly ended his appeals in a six-month effort to recover his job.

Mattingly, a detective, fatally shot Michael Newby, 19, in January 2004 in an undercover drug buy gone awry.

Mattingly was indicted for murder but was acquitted of all charges related to Newby's death in a trial in September. He was fired last April by Chief Robert White, who said Mattingly violated department policy.

Pre-funeral fund-raiser

NH HAMPTON — Former state lawmaker Jane Kelley, who is diagnosed with terminal cancer, threw herself a "prefuneral" party where guests were asked to donate \$25 to her cremation fund.

In exchange, they were excused from attending the wake, funeral and sending flowers when she dies.

A long wait for justice

TX HOUSTON — Months after his release from prison, a man who served nearly two decades behind bars is still waiting to find out if the evidence that questioned his guilt in a brutal crime will be enough to keep him free.

Prosecutors have asked the Court of Criminal Appeals to allow them to retry 44-year-old George Rodriguez in the kidnapping and

rape of a 14-year-old girl, for which he was convicted in 1987.

Rodriguez was serving a 60 year sentence for the crime when DNA tests showed blood and hair at the crime scene may have come from another man who was not prosecuted in the case.

Rodriguez was released in October because of faulty work and testimony in his case by the Houston Police Department's crime lab analysts.

Loggers back at work

OR GRANTS PASS — Loggers went to work without interference at the site of a 2002 forest fire, felling old-growth trees after the U.S. Forest Service closed off the area to keep out protesters.

Citing safety concerns for loggers and protesters alike, officials in the Siskiyou National Forest on Monday closed the 700-acre area and roads leading to the timber sale. Protesters had impeded loggers going to work.

Forest Service spokesman Tom Lavagnino said a crew of loggers had no trouble getting to work, and rangers had not spotted a tree sitter who logging opponents said was in a fir tree.

Consolidation plan

DES MOINES — Lawmakers unveiled a six-year plan requiring lowa's 99 counties and 950 cities to consolidate government services and separate into regions. The goal is to reduce duplication of government services and lower properly taxes.

Suicide or murder?

DENVER — Authorities have arrested a 14-year-old girl on suspicion of manslaughter while they investigate her story that she helped her father commit suicide.

The girl said her 56-year-old father, a self-employed electrician, tried to fatally shoot himself and was near death when she found him, allegedly prompting her to "end his suffering," Boulder County sheriff's Lt. Phil West said.

Investigators were trying to determine if the man indeed tried to kill himself, he said.

Inconsistencies in the girl's story and their initial investigation — including the absence of a suicide note — led them to arrest the teenager.

Oyster restocking

VA BURGESS — Work has begun on what will be the largest restocking effort with disease-resistant shellfish in the Chesapeake Bay.

Officials think their latest idea may hold the key to restoring the ecologically and economically important bivalve.

"We're very optimistic," said Doug Martin, project coordinator for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Last week, Martin hosted a boat tour of the oyster grounds as an initial 339,000 specially bred native oysters were dumped into the river. Plans call for releasing a total of 15 million oysters by the end of next month.

Stories and photos from wire services

Gimme a kiss

FACES

Shag on Wheaties box

Shaquille O'Neal's taste in breakfast cereals might be changing

The longtime fan of Frosted Flakes, which he once called "the best cereal ever created," is the latest athlete to grace the cover of a Wheaties how

The Shaq box, which features a

picture the 12-time NBA All-Star in a red Miami Heat uniform on the front, hit supermarket shelves this



Wednesday after unveiling a 7-foot replica of the box

Since 1934, hundreds of athletes have appeared on Wheaties box, starting with Jack Armstrong the fictitions All-American boy

"It's actually an honor," O'Neal said, "I remember as a voungster going to the stores, seeing all those greats like Kareem and Magic on the box and then saying to my mother and father, going to be on the cover of that one day.' And then they'd smack me and say, 'Shut up.' But he made it.

Let's go, mambo!

Billy Dee Williams, Esai Morales, Latin Grammy winner Albi-ta and Justina Machado will star in "The Mambo Kings," a new Broadway musical about two Cuban brothers and their journey from 1950s Havana to the posh nightclubs of Manhattan The musical opens Aug. 18 at



way Theatre. is based on the Pulitzer Prize-winnovel ning "The Mambo Play Kings

the Broad-

Songs Love by Oscar Hijuelos, co-wrote the book of the musical with Arne

Glimcher. The score was written by Carlos Franzetti (music) and Glimcher (lyrics)

My old Kentucky stars

The official induction ceremony isn't for nearly a year, but the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame and Museum has named nine 2006 inductees, including Naomi and Wynonna Judd. The announcement Wednes

day started a year of promotions leading to the official ceremony scheduled for Feb. 23, 2006, in Lexington. Next year's class includes vari-

ous music genres ranging from jazz to gospel. Induction ceremonies are held

every two years The class of 2006 also includes

Lionel Hampton, Mary Travers, Dottie Rambo, Sam Bush, John Conlee, Todd Duncan and John Jacob Niles.

Photos and stories from The Associated



The four men who make up Lonestar — Ritchie McDonald, Dean Sams, Michael Britt and Keech Rainwater — arrive at the 38th annual Country Music Awards, held last November at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn, They're back in the studio, planning for their next project,

They're already there. so now which way?

The guys of Lonestar will keep doing what works

By JOHN HAVES Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

here do you go when you get to the end of your dreams After cashing in on two suc-cessful albums and lucrative road tours, the Dixie Chicks stopped playing the Nashville game, recorded an unconventional CD that broke all the rules, flew their career into the stratosphere, willingly squandered it on a political statement, started families and con

tinue to live lives of the rich and famous. One of the hottest recording and touring acts in history, Kenny Chesney moved out of Tennessee, hung a hammock in Margaritaville, squeezed a lime into his beer and wrote the most revealpersonal and non-commercial album of his career

With 10 No. 1 country hits and gold or platinum wall-hangers for every one of their six non-holiday albums, the guys from Lonestar could easily break the mold and pursue personal musical interests with no fear of industry rejection.

Now back in the studio, preparing for their next project, what are their plans?

"We're definitely hoping [the next CD] will take off," says guitarist Michael Britt. 'We've set the bar pretty high for ourselves. One of our albums sold 3 million, so that's the benchmark.

Everybody handles success differently.

Britt, keyboardist Dean Sams, singer Richie McDonald and drummer Keech Rainwater see their popularity as a message from their fans that they're doing something right. With every opportunity available to them, they choose to keep doing what they do.
"I think the record label, it's their job to

We've always felt, don't do things that pigeonhole us. don't try to find songs like the last one, try to find something different, keep proving that we're diverse. But keep doing what works.

> Michael Britt Lonestar guitarist

sell the record," says Britt, on the phone from his home in Nashville. "They only look at that side of it. We have the luxury of looking at our whole career.

'There's no pressure for us. In the middle of making this record, we want to make a record that we're proud of."

Lonestar has come to understand the meth-

od behind the madness that has so far sold 8 million albums. Country radio's overwhelmingly female audience likes the band's diupbeat and catchy tunes, and they think McDonald is cute.

"Love songs, rocking stuff and the family " says Britt. "That's what works for

"Mr. Mom," a bouncy, cuddly tune about daddy day care written by Ron Harbin and Don Pfimmer for last year's "Let's Be Us Again" CD, became the perfect Lonestar song.

"When we were playing fairs last sum-mer, we were a little hesitant about play-ing that song," Britt says.

"We thought maybe that only people with kids would get into it. But there were high-school kids singing along. That song kind of evolved live, with the crowd singing every word so loud we'd just stop playing and let them all sing along.

As the band pulls together songs for its next CD - some found, some written by band members — Britt says they're not looking for the next "Mr. Mom," just something that works every bit as wel

"There's a reflective period [after an album is released] where we think about what worked, what we want to do next and how we can do what we've never done," he says. "We've always felt, don't do things that pigeonhole us, don't try to find songs like the last one, try to find something different, keep proving that we're diverse. But keep doing what works.

YOUR MONEY

After a decade of quiet, inflation wakes

Experts: Americans will pay price as rates rise, Fed reacts

winds are

changing. A lot

of forces that

had kept prices

contained are

now moving in

the opposite

direction.

Senior economist, Wells

Fargo & Co., Minneapolis

Scott Anderson

BY MIKE MEYERS

Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune

For several years now, consumers have been living in a shopper's paradise. But 2005 may be the

year paradise is lost. The long, quiet period for infla-on, in which every rise in price 44 The economic

one set of goods and services, such as auto repairs or dry cleaning, has been off set by reductions in prices else-where, such as for cars and clothes, looks to have come to an end "There

brewing inflation pressures," said Scott Anderson, senior economist at Wells Fargo & Co. Minneanolis economic winds are changing. A lot of forces

that had kept prices contained are now moving in the opposite direc-

Peter Kretzmer, senior economist at Bank of America, agrees that the past 10 years, and particularly the first few years of this century, which featured the kind of ultra-low inflation not seen in the United States since the Beatles arrived. have run their

That period has ended, replaced by very mild inflation," Kretzmer said What that inflation does to the

nation's economy may have as much to do with how the Federal Reserve reacts to it — with just-right series of interest rate increases to keen prices under control but the economy undamaged, or with recession-inducing overkill that punctures the along economy

with inflation. "The Fed is heginning to become a little concerned," said Nariman Behravesh, chief economist of Glochief bal Insight, a leading economic

forecasting firm. Global Insight earlier had expected the Fed to stop raising short-term interest rates by the middle of 2005, but Behravesh now foresees interest rate hikes through the end of the year.

"I don't think it's anything seri-- vet." he said of the rate



Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan takes his seat prior to testifying before the Senate Special Aging Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington on Tuesday. Economists say "the Fed is beginning to become a little concerned" about impending inflation pressures

Bond traders apparently also believe the Fed will keep up the drumbeat of higher interest rates for some time to come. That's the only explanation, in the view of an alysts, for long-term rates remain ing relatively low — in the range of 4.3 percent for a 10-year Treasury bond - in the face of higher short-term interest rates and increasing signs of inflationary pres-

"As next round of [inflation] numbers comes in, it will become more clear we're going higher, not lower," said Kenneth Goldstein.

economist at the Conference Board, a business research organization based in New York City. "Watch that [10-year] bond yield

pop. It easily could go to 5 [per-There are ample reasons for Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan to have some worries about what's ahead

on the inflation front Last week, the government reported a sharper-than-expected rise in producer prices - a bellwether of consumer prices in the

months ahead. Meanwhile, the decline in the value of the U.S. dollar, a trend that's been in place for nearly three years, is forcing U.S. consumers to pay more for some imported goods. Foreign firms, wary of losing market share, had resisted try-

ing to raise prices until recently. "Obviously, [foreign] companies can take a hit on their profit margins if they think the dollar decline is a temporary phenomenon," Anderson said. "But if they think it's sticking, they'll try to push through price increases." In Janu-ary, the price of imported goods from industrialized countries — excluding China, which still ties the value of its currency to the dollar
— was 6.7 percent higher than a year earlier.

Within the United States, the labor market is starting to create more jobs and workers are getting harder to find in some industries, Anderson said.

"We could see some stronger wage and salary increases" in 2005, Anderson said, and companies will try to pass along at least some of those costs through higher

The prices of the commodities that many firms buy, and which make up their second-largest cost after labor, also have spiked high-

Until lately, manufacturers were hard-pressed to pass along higher prices to recoup what they are paying for everything from lumber and steel to chemicals and

For example, new vehicle prices in 2004 were lower than in 2003, and the prices in 2003 were less than in 2002. The last time vehicle prices went up year over year, after taking the effects of inflation into account, was in 2000, according to government figures.

"The car story is the most stark and remarkable" example of the quiet inflation environment so far in this century, Goldstein said.

This year, automakers are trying to raise car and truck prices so far, with mixed success

The turnaround is in force for used vehicles, however. The average sale price on used cars and trucks in the past couple months was 1 to 1.5 percent higher than a year earlier. That might not sound like much, but in January 2004, used vehicle prices were about 10 percent lower than in the same period a year earlier.

THURSDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

52-week				Net Chg	.%	ΥTD	52-wi
High	Low	Name	Last	Chg	Chg '	% Chg	
10,984,46	9,708,40	Dow Jones Industrials	10.633.07	-112.03	-1.04	-1.39	+3.23
3,889.97	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,757.52	-58.91	-1.54	-1.07	+31.99
363.82	259.08	Dow Jones Utilities	356.57	-2.47	69	+6.45	+26.71
7,455,08	6.211.33	NYSE Composite	7,264,47	-45.94	63	+.20	+10.61
1.539.14	1.150.74	Amex Index	1.483.84	-2.22	15	+3.45	+19.78
2.191.60	1.750.82	Nasdag Composite	2.015.75	-19.23	94	-7.34	+1.97
1,229,11	1.060.72	S&P 500	1.188.07	-9.68	81	-1.97	+5.77
683.36	548.29	S&P MidCap	664.63	-5.83	87	+.20	+11.49
656.11	515.90	Russell 2000	622.92	-3.90	62	-4.40	+7.67
12.108.93	10,268,52	DJ Wilshire 5000	11.719.16	-97.83	83	-2.10	+6.72

NYSE			AMEX			Nasdaq					
Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)	Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)	Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)
Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
GnMotr Lucent Flan	591513 522204	29.01 2.81	-4.71 10	SPDR SemiHTr	742366 303695	119.12 32.69	-1.02 38	Nasd100Tr JDS Uniph	855499	36.62 1.78	43 08 28
FordM TimeWarn	359287 290368 241374	7.32 11.91 18.10	32	SP Engy IShRs2000 SP Encl	121971 103645 85672	42.65 124.47 29.35	+.14 70 30	Microsoft Intel RschMot s	736118 591675 587827	24.63 23.54 78.96	28 34 +11.87
ExxonMbl Pfizer Motorola	209463 199785 192902	60.29 26.05 15.25	06 24 08	DJIA Diam iShJapan IvaxCo s	63608 60791 57563	106.35 10.87 18.94	-1.22 +.49	Cisco SunMicro Oracle	472791 461906 444163	18.07 4.19 13.02	18 16 13
EMC Cp Delphi	189014 184151	12.07 4.67	05	OilSvHT SP Matis	54554 49143	94.25 30.58	20 67	SiriusS BiogenIdo	328343 297910	5.23 37.19	10 88

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg ⁴	×ď
Alliant Technosystem		17	71.81	51	+5
Armor Holdings	-	17	40.66	-1.00	-13
Boeing	1.00	25	56.77	-1.71	+9
Computer Sciences	-	14	44.66	85	-20
Engineered Sup Sys	.07	19	55.58	22	- 4
General Dynamics	1.60	17	106.40	-2.60	+1
General Electric	.88	22	35.61	39	-1
Halliburton	.50		41.90	+.36	+6
Harris Corp.	.48	29	67.92	-1.30	+5
Allied Signal	.83	23	38.15	90	+1
L-3 Communications	.50	22	74.65	58	+1
Lockheed Martin	1.00	21	59.95	05	+1
NorthrpG s	.92	17	53.00	-1.02	-1
Raytheon	.80	41	38.10	63	-1
Rockwell Intl.	.66	23	58.19	+.18	+17
Sequa Corp.		33	53.46	24	-12
Texas Instruments	.10	24	25.45	27	+3
Textron Inc.	1.40	30	77.90	01	+5
United Technologies	1.76	18	101.51	- 79	-1



EXCHANGE RATES

Dollar buys
British pound\$1.97
Jananese ven (March 19)
South Korean won (March 18)978.00
Commercial rates
Bahrain (Dinar)0.37678
British pound\$1.9241
Canada (Dollar)1.2012
Denmark (Krone)5.29
Eavot (Pound)5.79
Furo\$1.3376/0.7476
Hong Kong (Dollar)7.7997
Hungary (Forint)183.50
Iceland (Krona)58.555
Israel (Shekel)4.305
Japan (Yen)104.52
Kriwait (Dinar)
Norway (Krone) 5.78 Philippines (Peso) 54.00
Philippines (Peso)54.00
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)
Singapore (Dollar)1.6227
South Korea (Won)1,003.81
Switzerland (Franc)1.10
Thailand (Baht)38.52
Turkey (New Lira)1.3147
(Military exchange rates are those
available to customers at military bank-
ing facilities in the country of issuance
for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the

Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing Birtish pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollars, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is

PRECIOUS METALS

INTEREST RATES

INTERCEO I INVIII	
Prime rate	
Discount rate Federal funds market rate	3.50
3-month hill	2 735
30-year bond	4.78
Sources: The Associated Press,	Bank of

ents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Balancing credit cards

NEW YORK - That unnaid balance on your credit card can really hurt your finances.

Most people know that if you make only the minimum monthly payment on your card, it can take you months - or even - longer than you had intended before you can finally pay off the balance. But how bad is that, really? Say you have \$3,000 in debt on a credit card with a 15 percent interest rate You figure you can do better meeting your monthly expenses, and even put a little aside for savings, if you only pay \$75 per

month on the card. At that rate, if you never again add to the card's balance, you'll nay off the card in 18 years. And you'll also pay a walloping \$2,757.81 in interest! Ouch.

To pay off your debt faster, you might try several approach-

Switch your remaining credit-card balances to a credit card with a lower interest rate.

■ Pay more than your monthly minimum. Allot as much as you can reasonably spend toward your bill each month.

■ Limit your credit card use, of course. Try to stick with cash or your debit card.

■ To find out how much your credit-card balance is costing you, check out the credit card calculator at Bankrate.com.



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Saturday, March 19, 2005

Benelux: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the low 50s to low 60s. Saturday lows in the mid 40s.

Britain, Ireland: Partly cloudy to cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s to mid 60s. Saturday lows in the mid 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s. Saturday lows in the 30s.

France: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s. Saturday lows in mid 40s

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rain. Highs in the low 40s to low 50s. Saturday lows in the low

Southern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the upper 50s. Saturday lows in the low to mid 40s.

Hungary: Cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the mid 50s. Saturday lows in the mid 20s.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy with morning fog. Highs in the low to mid 60s. Saturday lows in the upper 30s to low 40s.

Southern Italy: Sunny. Highs in the mid 60s to low 70s. Saturday lows in the upper 40s to lower 50s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s. Saturday lows in the upper

Norway: Cloudy with snow and rain. Highs in the mid 20s to mid 30s. Saturday lows in the mid teens to low 30s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy in the morning, becoming cloudy with rain in the evening. Highs in the mid 60s to mid 70s. Saturday lows in the low 40s to upper 50s.

Turkey: Sunny becoming mostly cloudy in the evening. Highs in the low 60s to upper 70s. Saturday lows in the mid 30s to mid 40s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home page at: https://owe.sembach.af.mil

https://ows.sembach.af.mil http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil

ntip://ows.public.sembach.af.mil

Indiay | Iomorrow | Ioday |

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

68/53

Cairo 74/54

AFRICA

59 57

| Heat | Columbia | Heat | Columbia | Heat | Heat | Columbia | Heat |

60/35

72/54

Karach 87/73

67/43

74/53

Occluded fr. Staty. front

MIDEAST

97/72

THE UNITED STATES TODAY
As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



Scheduled to ETS or PCS?

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.



Horoscope

In the weeks to come, it may feel like you and your loved ones have

revisited the tower of Babel - suddenly, no one is speaking the same language, and instead, everyone is uttering strange. unassociated sounds. It's not always necessary to understand. Listen as though to music.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 19). It's a trans-

forming year. Your days will be filled with activities very different from the ones that occupied you last year. Let a trusted partner lead the way this month. Your self-confidence soars because you're proud of the hard work you do in June. An inheritance or legacy helps your financial picture in August. Lucky love signs are Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

and Cancer

Like the producer of reality TV competition, you don't always make the decision that's fair. Sometimes. you let kooky people stay in the game because they are more entertaining than the talented ones

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Today is a study in how it feels to

want. Your appetite (for all things not only food) is voracious. To avoid sinking into a rank mood, bring a snack for the voyage. Love with a Libra is tender.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If you have not set your sites high enough, you realize this now. Many of you experience a bout of lealousy. Have no fear. This is the way the universe has chosen to show you

vour heart's desire.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Don't complain: don't explain. Do talk plenty about what you intend to do. as this solidifies your approach. Romance brews in the neighborhood - it's a situation worthy of

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The rules of the past no longer guide you to the most appropriate course of

"Desperate Housewives.

action. So it's time to make new rules. Don't be hasty. Observe what's really going on before you make a single decision.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Life only asks you to do your best,

Holiday Mathis

not the impossible. Good fortune comes via a jewel-fingered lady. If vou're kind and grateful. the future holds more of this for you.

LIBRA (Sept.

23-0ct. 23). Regarding a situation that a more jaded person would deem hopeless: There's still time to turn things around Sort out the supporters from the

hangers-on. You have the ability to warm up even an icy-cold people

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your greatest investment is in your self. Doing for others until you are all tapped out just isn't healthy. Set some time aside to focus inward. Someone is afraid of your criticism

and thus keeps a low profile SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec.

21). Be a social animal; networking now does wonders for your finances. However, knowing your real friends is key. A true friend accentuates your good characteristics, which can help you get work or a special date.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). Social niceties are all well and good, but you're in a "show me the money" kind of mood. Or, as Dorothy Parker put it so well, "The two most beautiful words in the English language are 'check enclosed."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It may come to your attention that

late fees and penalties have reared their ugly heads into your financial picture. Resolve, on paper, to spend wisely. Careless spending will leave you in a state of constant need.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Instead of vacillating, make deci-

sions, and go with them. It turns out there is no right or wrong, only action and inaction. Your love life thrives when you take risks especially if a Scorpio is involved.

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts









Worse 5

· STARS AND STRIPES · MIDEAST EDITION · CALVIN, STOP RUNNING THROUGH THE HOUSE! Hobbes Calvin and YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TRY TO TALK SURGICAL PROCEDURE ump Start MUSKRAT HA! HA! HA!











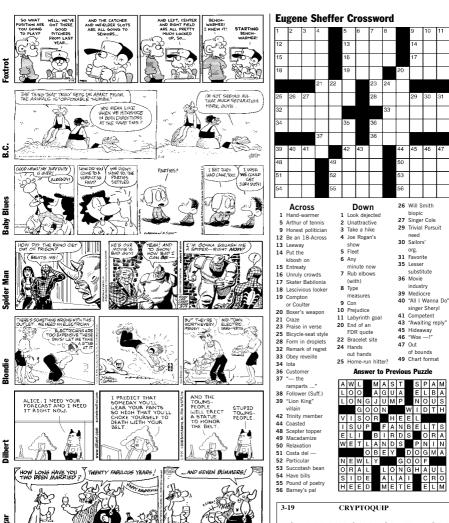








PAGE 22 · STARS AND STRIPES · MIDEAST EDITION · Saturday, March 19, 2005



AHÖY!

JPM DAV15 3-19

KPNPHLOMP 0.1W AGRI XRWCPH O D H P W R R C AGGK, DTXXGDP NFP XHGGI O D O M NFP TNNOMA

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A WITCH WERE TRAVELING VERY FAST, DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE MIGHT BE ON A SONIC BROOM?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals T

Compromise with live-in boyfriend

Dear Abby: I'm 19, and last month I moved in with my boyfriend of five years. Ever since we got settled in our new home, he has invited his friends over on a daily basis.

It's not just one or two, Abby; he has six to nine people stopping by every day to hang out. watch movies and even eat dinner with us.

I have tried expressing to him that I'd like to be asked before these people are invited. He'll comply occasionally, but most of the time I come home and find three people lounging in our living room like they own the place. His response when I get upset is, "I pay half the rent. Can't I have my friends

There are nights when I want to come home, put my feet up, and read a book in peace and quiet, or better yet, spend time just with him. How can I communicate this without making him defensive?

- Crowded Out in Minnesota Dear Crowded: There is a

secret to successful cohabitation. It's called compromise. Consideration for the other person's feel-ings is also helpful. Before invit-ing friends to come and hang out, or share a meal, your boyfriend should call and ask if that's OK with you. That's what partners

do to keep peace under their roof. Please clip this and show it to your boyfriend. It's not a question of all or nothing; it's simply common courtesy

Dear Abby: My beloved mother died the first week of February. Four hours after she drew her last breath, at a lunch following our

visit to the mortuary to make burial arrangements, her "friend" of more than 40 years, "Marilyn," began asking me to give her items from my mother's

I agreed to let her have two chairs at some time in the future Within two days after my return home (I live in a neighboring

state), Marilyn and her husband entered Mother's home and removed two carloads of furniture not including the two chairs. They took photographs and personal items belonging to my mother, some of which were removed from her bedroom.

I insisted they return what they took, which they claim they did, but I'll always wonder whether they returned everything. Should I report the theft to the authorities or to the other family members? Should I demand an accounting from the so-called friends?

- Angry and Heartsick in Sun City

Dear Angry and Heartsick: By all means disclose what happened not only to your other family members, but also to you mother's lawyer and the police. The lawyer can demand the accounting, and the police can make sure that all the items were indeed returned

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argi

Unscramble these four Jumbles one letter to each square. to form four ordinary words. FITEB



BEDFAL

HE FOUND DEFENDANTS Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

WHEN THE JUDGE

HAD AN EARLY

COURT CALL

Answer here:

(Answers Monday) Jumbles: ABBOT STEED HORROR FROZEN Answer: How the drunken cowboy felt when the sheriff put him in the cooler - NOT SO HOT

Coughing neighbor too noisy

Dear Annie: My husband and I have a unique problem with one of our neighbors. We would talk to him about it, but it's quite embarrassing.

Every night between 2 and 4 a.m., our neighbor goes outside and coughs until he spits up. And every night it wakes us up. It is so disgusting.

This neighbor is a heavy smoker. We have tried closing our windows, but we can still hear him. We are sure he does this outside so he won't wake up his own family. Instead, we are the ones losing sleep

How do we deal with this situation tactfully?

- Sleepless in Sarasota Dear Sarasota: You have two options: Tell your neighbor, "You probably aren't aware of it, but your coughing wakes us up at night. We're terribly worried about you.



Day card.

The second option is to put some white noise in your hedroom. perhaps a fan, a radio, or one of those machines that simulates ocean waves - to mask the unpleasant sound

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "A Troubled Father," who

was upset that his adult daughter didn't send birthday cards to his new wife, although she did finally send a Mother's

My father, also a widower, remarried a lovely woman, and we are very appreciative. However, my father decided we could not spend time with him alone, that every visit had to include his new wife. This was never a problem when my mother was alive. We siblings used to meet Dad alone for breakfast, and it was a

great opportunity to discuss

Now breakfasts always include the new wife, and most of the time is spent listening to my stepmother

Mother's Day is always a prob lem, since he expects us to shower her with the same devotion that we gave my mother. Why She's not my mother. She is HIS WIFE. He should stop trying to force a relationship on his children that they will resent.

- Frustrated Stendaughter

Dear Frustrated: Many new wives are insecure about their place in the family and go overboard to make sure Hubby includes them in everything. This can create terrible bitterness. A secure woman knows that her husband loves her, and she doesn't mind letting him have breakfast with his kids, alone.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Sync cate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



"Mommy! Winter's over! The sidewalks are coming back!"

AARA





© Gary I



Duggy's science project gets in Mr. Og's hair



TO HAVE ADULT A.D.D.

SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Saturday

ARN-Pacific, 6 p.m.-Boxing: Friday Night Fights, Kevin McBride (34-d-1, 26 KOs) vs. Kevin Monity (16-2-1, 12 KOs), heavyweights (did. Atlantic and Sports, 7 p.m.-College basketball: NCAA men's tournament, 2nd round, teams TBD. ARN-Radio, 7 p.m.-College basketball: NCAA men's tournament, 2nd-round double-header, teams TBD.

AFN-Pacific, 1 a.m. Auto racing: Busch Se-les Aaron's 312 (did). AFN-Radio, 2 a.m. -College basketball: VCAA men's tournament, 2nd-round double-NCAA n ICAA men's tournament, 2nd-round double-eader, teams TBD. AFN-Sports, 4 a.m.-Tennis: Pacific Life Ipen, women's final (did). AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.-Golf: Bay Hill Invitation-Jard round (did).

 J. 3rd round (dld).
 AFN-Atlantic, 1 p.m.-Auto racing: IRL XM atellite Radio Indy 200 (dld).
 AFN-Sports and Pacific, 6 p.m.-College basetball: NCAA men's tournament, 2nd round, teams TBD.

AFN-Radio, 6 p.m.-College basketball:
NCAA men's tournament, 2nd-round triple-

eader, teams TBD. AFN-Atlantic, 6:30 p.m.-Auto racing: Nextel Cup Golden Corral 500.

AFN-Atlantic, 11 p.m.-Motor racing: NHRA Mac Tools Gatornationals.

An unies are central European Time; did in dicates delayed listing. All listings are sub-ject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information. All times are Central European Time: dld in

Baseball

Spring training glance

AMERICAN LEAGUE .615 .588 Tampa Bay Los Angeles Toronto .571 .500 .500 .461 .461 .429 .375 .375 Chicago Detroit Baltimor Baltimore Boston New York Kansas City NATIONAL LEAGUE **W** L Pct. .667 Atlanta New York St. Louis Colorado Milwaukee .615 .615 .588 .562 .531 Chicago Arizona

Arizona Philadelphia Washington Los Angeles San Diego Pittsburgh .500 .500 .467 .461 .417 Houston NOTE: Split-squad games count standings; games against non-major teams do not.

Wednesday's games N.Y. Mets 4, Florida 3 N.Y. Mets 4, Florida 3 Minnesota 5, Toronto 0 Boston 9, St. Louis 3 Houston 11, Cleveland 5 Tampa Bay 4, Detroit 3 L.A. Dodgers 7, Baltimore 5 Pittsburgh 9, N.Y. Yankees 4 Philadelphila 4, Cincinnati 3 Seattle 4 Seattle

Philadelphia 4, Cincinnati 3 Seattle 4, San Francisco 1 Oakland 13, San Diego 1 Colorado 4, L.A. Angels 2 Kansas City 6, Chicago White Sox 3 Atlanta 4, Washington 0 Texas 9, Arizona 2 Thursday's games

Texas 9, Art Thursday's games
Thursday's games
Tampa Bay 7, Philadelphia 3
Chicago Cubs 6, Oakland 4
San Francisco 7, Texas 5
San Diego 16, Colorado (ss) 7
Kansas City 5, L.A. Angels 3
Artzona (ss) 13, Milwaukee 10, 10 innings
Florida v.B. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla., ppd., ain

N.Y. Mets vs. Washington at Viera, Fla., ccd., rain leveland vs. Toronto at Dunedin, Fla., ccd., rain Baltimore vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla., ccd., ain Atlanta vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla.,

Addition of the control of the contr Detroit ccd., rain

ccd., rain

Friday's games

Florida vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.

Cleveland vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla.

St. Louis vs. Florida at Jupiter, Fla.

Minnesota vs. Baltimore at Fort Lauder

Minnesota vs. bentining.
iale, Fla.
Iale, Fla.
Texas vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz.
Dakland vs. Milivaukee at Phoenix
Arizona vs. Colorado at Tucson, Ariz.
Seattle vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale,

ıriz. L.A. Angels vs. Kansas City at Surprise, L.A. Angels vs. Karisas Gry McCarl Ariz. Chicago Cubs vs. Chicago White Sox at Tucson, Ariz. Detroit vs. Houston at Kissimmee, Fla. Toronto vs. Tampa Bay at St. Petersburg,

Fla. Pittsburgh vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater,

Fla. Washington vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla. Cincinnati vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla.

College basketball

National Invitation Tournament

watconal invitation in commanies

watconal invitation in commanies

watconal invitation in commanies

Buffalo 81, Drese? 16, Orr

Salmi, Joseph's 51, Hoffars 44

Davidoon 77, Virginia Commonwealth 52

Salmi, Joseph's 51, Hoffars 44

Davidoon 77, Virginia Commonwealth 52

Salmi, Joseph's 51, Hoffars 44

Western Meritady 18, Kerl State 80, Or Carl

First Bound

Western Michigan 54, Marganite 40

Tuesday, March 15

Holy Concept 51, Hoffars 44

Western Michigan 54, Marganite 40

Tuesday, March 15

Virginia 12-et 30, Temple 50

Western Michigan 15

Western Michigan 16

Weste

Tryama Lecti co. I terripe to Debeau Wednesday, March 16
Texas Christian 60, Miami (Ohio) 58
Georgetown 64, Boston U. 36
Georgetown 64, Boston U. 36
Vanderbilt 67, Indiana 69,
Maryland 85, Oral Roberts 72
Cal State Firiday, March 18
Cal State Firiday, March 18
Cal State Firiday, March 18
Cal State Firiday March 18

Cal State Fullerton Law - Cisco (17-13)
Saturday, March 19
Buffalo (23-9) at Saint Joseph's (20-11)
Davidson (22-8) at Southwest Missouri
State (19-12)
Western Kentucky (22-8) at Wichita State

Second Round
State Survey at Wichita State
Startday, March 19
Virginia Tech (16-13) at Memphis (20-15)
Texas AM (20-9) at DePaul (20-10)
Monday, March 21
Texas Christian (20-13) at Western Michian (20-12)

gan (20-12)

Dates and Sites TBA

Maryland (17-12) vs. SW Missouri
St./Davidson :/Davidson Georgetown (18-12) vs. CS Fullerton/San Francisco
UNLV (17-13) vs. South Carolina (16-13)
Vanderbilt (19-13) vs. W. Kentucky/Wichi-Holy Cross (25-6) vs. Buffalo/Saint Jo-seph's

Men's NCAA Div. II tournament

Quarterfinals Wednesday, March 23 Bryant (23-8) vs. Mount Olive (29-4) Tarleton State (24-8) vs. Cal Poly Pomona (24-6) Metro State (29-3) vs. Virginia Atlantic (27-4)

27-4) Lynn (28-5) vs. Findlay (30-3) Semifinals Thursday, March 24 Bryant/Mount Olive vs. Tarleton State/Cal Poly Pomona Metro State/Virginia Atlantic vs. Lynn/Findlay

Men's NCAA Div. III tournament

Friday, March 18 Friday, March 18
Rochester (2-4) vs. Calvin (26-6)
Wis.-Stevens Pt. (27-3) vs. York, Pa. (27-3)
Saturday, March 19
Third Place
Wis.-Stevens Pt.-York, Pa. loser vs. Roches-r-Calvin loser

Championship
Wis.-Stevens Pt./York, Pa. vs. Rochester/Calvin

Men's NAIA Div. I tournament First Round Wednesday, March 16

Wednesday, March 16
Oklahoma City 77, vs. Mobile 74
St. Xavier 60, Langston 55
Lindsey Wilson 69, Faulkner 63
Carroll, Mont. 85, Concordia, Calif. 72 Carroll, Mont. 85, Concordia, Calif. 72 Trevecca Nazarene 79, Lewis-Clark St. 71 Oklahoma Christian 80, Brescia 76, OT Mountain St. 77, Columbia, Mo. 50 Azusa Pacific 88, Houston Baptist 72 Thursday, March 17

Oklahoma Christian 68, Perscia 76, 07 Househa, Mo. 50 2 Househa, M

oma Baptist (24-10) vs. Georgetown. (1-5) I. Baptist (24-9) vs. Robert Morris-Chica-

TANK McNamara

"WHY WOULD A SERVOUS "WHY WOULD A SERIOUS L ARTIST BO TO ART SCHOOL T AND TAKE A COURSE IN FACE PAINTINGS" YOU SAID. "HARD TIMES" I SAID.

"HARD TIMES" I SAD.
"HE'FEN TO YOUR FACULTY
ADVISER" I SAID.
YOU WERE
RIGHT, DAD.
OK?

Trevecca Nazarene (25-7) vs. Mountain St. (30-3) Oklahoma Christian (27-6) vs. Azusa Pacific (26-5) LSU-Shreveport (27-8) vs. John Brown

(20-11) Southern Poly St. (32-3) vs. Biola (27-7) **NCAA** Women's tournament

PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL FIRST Round Saturday, March 19 North Carolina State (21-7) vs. Middle Tennessee State (22-8) Texas Tech (22-7) vs. Texas-Arlington (21-9)

Sunday, March 20 New Mexico (26-4) vs. Purdue (16-12) Tennessee (26-4) vs. Western Car 18-13)

(18-13) Temple (27-3) vs. Western Carolina (18-13) Temple (27-3) vs. Louislana Tech (20-9) Rutgers (25-6) vs. Hartford (22-8) Ohio State (28-4) vs. Holy Cross (20-10) Maryland (21-9) vs. Wisconsin-Green Bay (27-3)

(27-3) Second Round
Monday, March 21
North Carolina State/Middle
State vs. Texas Tech/Texas-Arlin
Tuesday, March 22
Tennessee/Western Carolina vs
ico/Purdue Tuesday, March 22
Tennessee/Western Carolina vs. New Mex-ico/Purdue
Temple/Louislana Tech vs. Rutgers/Hart-ford

ford Maryland/Wisconsin-Green Bay vs. Ohio State/Holy Cross Semifinals Semifinals Arch Carolina State/Middle Tennessee State—Texas Tect/Y rexas-Arlington vs. Tendensets ern Carolina—New Mexico/Purdius winnesseen Carolina win

due winner Temple/Louisiana Tech—Rutgers/Hart-ford vs. Maryland/Wisconsin-Green Bay—O-hio State/Holy Cross Tuesday, March 29

Total State (1997) Total State (

Boston College/Houston vs. Duke/Cani-

Sus Semifinals
Saturay, March 26
LSU/Stetson—Oklahoma /Arizona vs. Depauly Virginia Tech—Penn State/Liberty
ton College-Mouston—Duke/Canisius
Monday, March 28
Champlonsibs CHY RegionAL
First Round
First Round
H 19

Saturday, March 19 ern California (19-10) vs. Louisville (22-8) Michigan State (28-3) vs. Alcorn State

(21-8)
Iowa State (23-6) vs. Utah (25-7)
Stanford (29-2) vs. Santa Clara (17-13)
Kansas State (23-7) vs. Bowling Gree
(23-7)
Vanderbilt (22-7) vs. Montana (22-7)
Sunday, March 20
Connecticut (23-7) vs. Bratmouth (17-10)
Florida State (23-7) vs. Richmond (23-7)
Second Round

Second Round
Monday, March 21
Monday, March 21
California/Louisville
Iowa State/Alcorn State vs. Southern
California/Louisville
Iowa State/Utah vs. Stanford/Santa Clara
Vanderbilt/Montana vs. Kansas
State/Rowling Green
Tuesday, March 22
Florida State/Richmond vs. Connecticut/Dartmout/Semifinals

cut/Dartmouth

Semifinals
Sunday, March 27

Michigan State/Alcorn State—Southern
California/Louisville vs. Vanderbilt/Montana—Kansas State/Bowling Green
Fla, State/Richmond—Connecticut/Dartmouth vs. Iowa State/Utha—Stanford/Santa Clara

Tuesday, March 29

TEMPE REGIONAL First Round

First Round
Saturday, March 19
ginia (20-10) vs. Old Dominion (22-8)
nnesota (24-7) vs. St. Francis, Pa. (21-9)
zona State (22-9) vs. Eastern Kentucky

HARVEY THUMP IS SO

FANATICAL AN EGU BOOGTER THAT HE FOLLOWS THE TEAM THROUGH THE NOAA

RACKETRALL TO KNAMENT PAINTER.

) tre Dame (26-5) vs. UC Santa Barbara Notre Dame (26-5) vs. UC Santa Ba (21-8) Baylor (27-3) vs. Illinois State (13-17)

BIGGER EYES, MAYBE?

MEANER! OOKING EVEC

Texas Christian (23-9) vs. Oregon (20-9)
Sunday, March 20
North Carolina (27-3) vs. Coppin State (23-7) Mississippi (19-10) vs. George Washington (22-8)

(22-8)

Second Round
Monday, March 21

Virginia/Old Dominion vs. Minnesota/St.
Francis, Pa.
Arizona State/Eastern Kentucky vs. Notre
Dame/US Santa Barbara
Texas Christlan/Oregon vs. Baylor/Illinois

State
Tuesday, March 22
North Carollina/Coppin State vs. Mississippi/George Washington
Semifinals
Suturday, March 26
North Carolina/Coppin State—Mississippi/George Washington vs. Artzona
State/Eastern Kentucky—Notre Dame/UC North C. Wäshing...
Pi/George Wäshing...
State/Fastern Kertucky-Notre C. State/Fastern Kertucky-Notre C. State/Fastern Kertucky-Notre C. State C. S

College baseball

Thursday's scores

Lehigh 7, Haverford 8, 10 Innings
N.J. City 13, Kings Point 4
Walsh 4-1, Mount 52. Vincent 1-0
E. Memonite 8-0
E. Memonite 1-0
E. Memonite 1-1

shall 1-1 SOUTHWEST
Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 10-15, Texas-Ar-lington 7-5
Trinity, Texas 10, Cardinal Stritch 3
MIDWEST

Edgewood 6, Hand

College hockey

Conference tournaments

ECAC Friday, March 18 Semifinale

Vermont vs. Cornell
Collgate vs. Harw WCHA
The Final Five
Quarterfinal
North Dakota 3, Wisconsin 2
Semilinals
Semilinals
North Dakota 3, Wisconsin 2
Semilinals
North Dakota vs. Denver
The Super Six
Quarterfinals
The Super Six

airbanks vs. Michigan St. vs. Ohio St. Hockey East Semifinals Friday, March 18

Boston College vs. Maine Boston U. vs. New Hampsh Atlantic Hockey Ass Semifinals

Semifinals Friday, March 18

Tennis

Pacific Life Open

Pacific Life Open
Thursday
At The Indian Wells Tends Carden
Indian Wells Tends Carden
Purse Men, \$27,2400 (Masters); Women,
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Guillemo Courterfinals
Guillemo Courterfinals
Guillemo (A. Morrian, def. Tim
Roger Federer (I), Switzerland, def. Nicolas Vider (2), Green Courterfinal
Staffer (2), Green Courterfinal
Staffer (3), Green Courterfinal
Lindsay Dec Guiterfinal
Lindsay Dec Guiterfinal
Lindsay Courterfinal
Lindsay C

MILLAR/HADSC

Boxing

U.S. Amateur

U.S. Affinite III

Thursday
Colorado Springs, Colo.
All weights in pounds
Quality in pounds
Quality in pounds
Quality in pounds
Quality in pounds
Aaron Alafa, Visalf, dec. Rick
Lopez, Latewood, Colo. 15-15 (59-50)
Raufsee Warrer, Clincinnati, dee. Mohammad Siddiqui, Kiyle, Toxas, 34-4
Gomez, Seattle, 4-11 idalophini, dec. Randy
Gomez, Seattle, 4-11 idalophini, dec. Randy
Gomez, Seattle, Call, 175-22

gus, Maywood, Callf., 25-22
Gary Russell, Jr., stopped Issac Viscarra, Fresno, Callf., RSCH-1
Sytel Wilbarn, Los Angeles, Callf., dec. Charles Huerta, Paramount, Callf., 13-8
David Clark, San Diego, Callf./NMU, stopped Frankle Torres, Camp Lejeune, N.C., Range, Callf., 27
Troy Wabsets. Troy Wohosky, Medford, Ore., stopped Jer-emy Perez, Lubbock, Texas, RSCO-2

emy Perez, Lubbock, Texas, Escopped Jer-Servan, St. Louis, 168 allfornia, dec. Jamal Param, St. Louis, 168 allfornia, dec. Jamal Param, St. Louis, 168 allfornia, dec. Terance Ray Robinson, Philadelphia, dec. Terance Crawford, Omaha, Neb., 22: 31, dec. Joseph Francisco, Chattanooga, Tenn, 5-8 Francisco, Chattanooga, Tenn, 5-8 Paracisco, Chattanooga, Tenn, 5-8 Newburgh, NY, 173 173

Newburgh, N.Y., 17-8

132

Jonathan Gover, Andronio, dec. Darnell Jiles, Jr., Rochester, N.Y., 23-17

Jason Rosario, Miami, Fla., dec. Matthew Esquibel, Albuquerque, M.M., 36-23

Michael Evans, Dayton, Ohio, stopped Mike Gonzalez, Milwaukee, RSCO-1

Stan Martynionk, Artelope, Calif., dec. Mel Crossty, Clincinatt, Ohio, 16-18

Satis Marymonte, Anthonose, Satis, noc. wea

Asra Ibarran, Philadholia, dec. Edward

Brooks, Karnkakee, Illi, 25-8

Hector Kannos, Luckard Air Force Base,
Brooks, Karnkakee, Illi, 25-8

Charles Satis, Dallas, stopped David Call
philadholia, Satis, Satis, Satis, Satis, Satis, Satis,
Willie Netion, Civelystand, Ohin, dec. Work

Bernettius, Andrade, Connecticut, dec.

OByo Meeton, For Carson, Cioc, dec. Dec.

Carter, Wasterbury, Corn., 23-11

Medical Carter, Satis, Mos., 42-7

Carter, Wasterbury, Corn., 23-11

dec. Deshon Banes, Celevalno, Ohin, 27-34

dec. Deshon Banes, Celevalno, Din. 27-34

Daniel Jacobs, Brooklyn, N.Y., dec. Des Banks, Cleveland, Ohio, 27-24 165 Johnathan Nelson, Little Rock, stopped Shawn Murphy, Aiea, Hai RSCO-3

SSOC)
Shawin Estrada, Lynwood, Callf., dec. Ken
Porter II, Stow, Ohio, 27-13
Elliczar Cepeda, Miami, Fla., dec., Joseph
Rosendo, Lubbock, Texas 18-18 (70-62)
Edwin Rodriguez, New England, Stopped
Roger Cantrell, Puyallug, Wash, 13-6
Millium Roseller, 178
Millium R

William Rosinksy, New York, dec. Dennis lasson, Philadelphia, 29-13 hasson, Prilladeipfila, 29-13 Brandon Gonzalez, San Jose, Calif., dec. Rommel Rene, Orlando, Fla., 15-10 Maurice Louishomme, Colorado Springs, Colo., dec. Chris Wirsing, Renton, Wash., 19-16 Christopher Downs, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, dec. De'Rae Crane, Davenport, Iowa, 3-0 (paper scoring)

3-0 (paper scoring)

201

Homero Fonseca, Driscoll, Texas, dec. Lucas Hoague, Camp Lejeune, N.C., 10-7
Anthony Grano, Connecticut, stopped Tim Skolnik, Traverse Citly, Mich., RSC-3
Marcus Henry, Cockeysville, Md., stopped Joe Guzman, Fort Carson, Colo, RSC-3
Derek Zuglic, La Grange, Ill., stopped Brandon Harris, Henderson, New, NSC-4

don Harris, Henderson, Nev., RSC-4
201-plus
Alfred White, Lake Charles, La., stopped
Marlon Lawson, Newport News, Va., RSC0-1
Mike Wilson, Central Point, Ore., dec. Eugene Hill, Dickinson, Texas, 6-4 gene Hill, Dickinson, Texas, 6-4 Travis Kauffman, Reading, Pa., dec. Kourt-ney Boden, Little Rock, Ark., 17-11 Gregory Corbin, Dallas, Texas, won on dis-qualifiction over Kimdo Bethel, Albany, N.Y.,

Women
110
Michelle Turner, Irvington, N.J., dec. Dana
Dudley, Alpharetta, Ga., 17-16
Cheryl Houlihan, Nashville, Texas, dec.
Emily Klinefelter, Iowa City, Jowa, 22-8
Samantha Sanchez, Illinois, won on walkover over Keisher McLeod, New York

Samantha Sanchur, Illinois, won on walk-leziapheth Gazzi, Los Angeles, dec. Na-talah syre, Camp Leiguse, Nc., 22-14 Celas Reyes, Cheyerine, Wos., 250ped Roman Carlon, Cheyerine, Wos., 250ped Roman Delisura, Nicko, 250ped Roman Delisura, Nicko, 250ped Roman Delisura, Alfanta, dec. Lavelle Viri-Mannah Guillard, Affanta, dec. Lavelle Viri-dus (Nickow) (Pri Worth, Toxas, dec. Ji-ud) (Nickow) (Pri Worth, Toxas, dec. Ji-d) (Nickow) (Pri Worth, Toxas, dec. Jid) (Nickow) (Nickow

Anca Neagu, Austin, Texas, stopped Laura Savage, Eau Claire, Wis., RSCO-3 I Pna Tavlor. Orlando, Fla., dec. Yelena

Levis Taylor, Orlando, Fia., dec. Yelena Binder, west Ornage, M.J. 21, dr. dec. Triche Garcia, Elik Grove, Calif., 12d. dec. Triches Garcia, Elik Grove, Calif., 12d. dec. Triches Garcia, 12d. dec. Triestan, 12d.

Taniqueka Harvey, Clinton, Md., stopped amantha Murphy, Chippewa Falls, Wis.,

SEE SCOREBOARD ON PAGE 25

SCOREBOARD

SCOREBOARD, FROM PAGE 24

Golf

Safeway International

Thursday At Superstition Mountain Golf Club Superstition Mountain, Ariz. Purse: \$1.4 million Yardage: 6,620; Par: 72 (36-36) First Round

32-33-65 34-31-65 32-34-66 36-30-66 35-32-67 35-33-68 33-35-68 Allinika Soretzi Juli Inkster Karen Stupples Sung Ah Yim Soo-Yun Kang Moira Dunn Karrie Webb Dawn Coe-Jones Candle Kung Beth Daniel Natalle Gulbis Paula Creamer Marcy Hart Kim Williams 35-33-68 33-35-68 34-35-69 33-36-69 35-34-69 34-35-69 34-35-69 36-33-69 35-34-69 35-34-69 36-34-70 34-36-70 33-37-70 34-36-70 36-34-70 36-34-70 Wendy Doolan Liselotte Neumann Mi Hyun Kim Angela Jerma Mhairi McKay Eva Dahllof Kate Golden
Brittany Lincicome
Johanna Head
Lee Ann Walker-Cooper
Laura Davies
Catriona Matthew
Dorothy Delasin
Meg Mallon Meg Mallon Stacy Prammanasudh Grace Park Grace Park
Wendy Ward
Emilee Klein
Kelli Kuehne
Vicki Goetze-Ackerman
Michelle Estill
Young 18 Michelle Estill
Young Jo
Joo Mi Kim
Jamie Hullett
Joanne Morley
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Sherri Lune
Sherri Lune
Birdle Kim
Marilyn Lovander
Maria Hjorth
Nancy Scranton
Yu Ping Lin
Aram Cho
Leta Lindley
Catherine Cartwright
Nadina Taylor
Tina Fischer
Joellyn Erdmann-Crooks
Beth Bader Beth Bader Chris Johnson Chris Johnson
Angela Stanford
Young Kim
Patricia Meunier-Lebouc
Rachel Hetherington
Heather Bowie
Hilary Lunke
Rosie Jones
Seol-An Jeon Seol-An Jeon Jung Yeon Lee Michelle Ellis Barb Mucha Stephanie Louden Jill McGill 38-36-74 38-36-74 40-35-75 36-39-75 37-38-75 38-37-75 on McGill Cindy Figg-Currier Amy Hung Anna Acker-Macosko 37-38-38-37-Anna Acker-Macos Michele Redman Sherri Steinhauer Patty Sheehan Jordan Cherebetiu Nicole Perrot a-Louise Stahle Stephanie Arricau Catrin Nilsmark Riko Higashio Jimin Kang Jeong Jang 39-36-75 40-35-75 37-38-75 37-38-75 37-38-75 38-37-75 38-37-75 38-38-76 38-38-76 Jeong Jang Ji Yeon Lee Bernadette Luse Jean Bartholome Giulia Sergas Deb Richard Deb Richard Katle Allison Nicole Jeray Shi Hyun Ahn Becky Morgan Sophie Gustafson Betsy King Kris Tschetter

Celeste Troche Lindsey Wright Cathy Johnston-Donna Andrews Beth Allen Kristen Samp Michelle McGann Jenna Daniels Soo Young Moon Audra Burks Reilley Rankin

TCL Classic

38-40-78 42-36-78 36-42-78 39-39-78 39-39-78 39-39-78 39-39-78 38-41-79

42-38-80 +8 39-41-80 +8 38-42-80 +8 39-43-82 +10 44-39-83 +11 43-40-83 +11

TCL Classic

Ar Valong Bay Got Club

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Ar Valong Bay Got Club

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Ar Valong Bay Got Club

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Ar Valong Ch 69-64-133 66-67-133 Raphael Jacquelin, France Chang Tse-peng, Taliwan Amandeep Johl, India David Bransdon, Australia Steven O'Hara, Scotland Pablo Del Olmo, Mexico Gregory Bourdy, France Hendrik Buhrmann, South Africa Nicolas Colsaerts, Belgium Fredrik Henge, Sweden
Ted Oh, South Korea
Coron Harris, United States

Deals

Thursday's transactions

BASEBALL

BASEBALL
American League
KANSAS CTTY ROYALS—Assigned OF Brian
Hunter to their minor league camp.
LOS ANGELES AMGELS—Assigned RHP
Steven Shell, LHP Joe Saunders, LHP Eric Cyr, LHP Corey Lee, INF Howard Kendrick, OF
Nick Gorneault, OF Tommy Murphy and OF
Reggie Willits to their minor league camp.
TORONTO BUEL JAYS—Released RHP Billy

National League
LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Optioned INF
Willy Aybar, INF Brian Myrow, RHP Franquelis Osoria and C Russell Martin to their minor

is Osoria and C Russell Martin to their minor league camp. NEW YORK METS—Released INF Danny Gar-cia and INF loe McEwing.Optioned OF Angel Pagan, OF Ambiorix Concepcion, C Mike Ja-cobs and RHP Matt Lindstrom to their minor league camp. Assigned LHP Black McGinley and the McGinley and the McGinley and the Martin Company of the McGinley and the

and SiP July Paul Padlila to their minor league InBERTON ANTON ALTON A

MUSION TEAMS—recapied Us Tony
Berlin on one-year contract.

KANSAS CITY CHEES—Agreed to terms

KANSAS CITY CHEES—Agreed to terms

KANSAS CITY CHEES—Agreed to terms

MAMA DOLPHINS—Signed FB Heath Evan

MAMA DOLPHINS—Signed FB Heath Evan

AND CHEES CHEES CHEES

SAN DIEGO CHARGES—Re-Signed C Kris

SAN DIEGO CHARGES—Re-Signed C Kris

SAN DIEGO CHARGES—Re-Signed C Kris

One-year contracts.

NFL Europe

AMSTERDAM ADMRAIS—Acquired DB

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SAN STERDAM ADMRAIS—Acquired DB

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SAN STERDAM C STREET

SAN STERDAM C S

In Measury Manager WR Gustavo Tella.

RHEIN FIRE – Signed WR Gustavo Tella.

COLLEGE

ALBANY, N.Y.—Named Jan Brown assistant athletics director for compliance and

assistant soccer coach.

NORTHERN LILHOUS-Released sophomore basketball F Paige Paulsen from his schedarship obligations.

Serbelarship obligations.

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SYRACUSE-Ammed Mark Jackson senior associate athletics director.

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Miami Heat's Shaquille O'Neal (32) tries to shoot over Los Angeles Lakers' Lamar Odom (7) Thursday night in Miami. Miami won 102-89.

O'Neal's Heat defeat **Bryant, Lakers again**

MIAMI — The message came loud and clear, 35 seconds into the second half. Kobe Bryant leaped toward the basket, shot the basketball — and landed on his backside, his shot blocked by

Dwyane Wade.

It was a harbinger of what awaited Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers over the last two quar-

ters. Bryant missed his first nine shots of the second half, and Wade and Keyon Dooling keyed a big fourth quarter that gave the Miami Heat a 102-89 victory Thursday night — and let Shaquille O'Neal eniov a season sweep of his former team.

Wade had 27 points, O'Neal had 25 points and 12 rebounds and Dooling scored a season-high 17 for Miami (51-16), which won its 11th straight game and season record 14th straight at home.

The Heat are nine games ahead of Detroit in the Eastern Conference race, 131/2 games ahead of Washington in the Southeast Division with 15 regular-season games remaining and within percentage points of San Antonio (49-15) for the league's best record.

"We just look at this game as an-other game," O'Neal said. "We wanted to stay focused and our guys did a beautiful job of not letting anything enter into the locker mom that would break our focus."

Something Bryant said just before halftime actually raised Wade's level of focus.

Bryant, according to Wade, told Miami's second-year guard "Stop crying" as the teams were preparing to leave the court following a first half in which Wade was often agitated over non-calls.



"I don't want to say what I said." Wade said. "I told him that I wasn't talking to him, for one And for two, I pretty much told him a lot of stuff. I don't want to

get into it. Bryant had 21 points in the first half, then finished with 26 on 8-for-23 shooting. Chucky Atkins had 23 for the Lakers, who dropped their third straight and fell 11/2 games behind Denver for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Dooling and Wade each had

eight points in the fourth quarter for Miami, which outscored the Lakers 33-22 in the final 12 min. utes - even though the Lakers connected on six three-pointers in the final 10:03. Eddie Jones had 12 points and

Damon Jones scored 11 for Lamar Odom had 11 points and

11 rebounds for the Lakers. Mavericks 98, Trail Blazers 94: At Dallas, Josh Howard scored 10 of Dallas' last 20 points,

including a critical three-pointer to break a 90-90 tie with 1:59 left. Howard finished with 21 points

and 11 rebounds, and Michael Finley added 17 points. Shareef Abdur-Rahim and Damon Stoudamire had 20 points each for the Trail Blazers, who've lost three in a row and nine of 10.

Warriors 100, Kings 97: At Oakland, Calif., Jason Richardson hit a long jumper with 27.1 sec-onds left and finished with 40 points for Golden State

Cuttino Mobley had 28 points for Sacramento.

NBA scoreboard

F--4---- 0---4----

Lastern Conference									
xy-Miami x-Detroit x-Boston Washington Cleveland Chicago Indiana Orlando	W L Pct GB 51 16 .76 40 23 .635 9 36 29 .554 14 35 27 .565 13½ 34 28 .548 14½ 32 30 .516 16½ 32 31 .508 17 31 33 .484 18½								
Philadelphia New Jersey Toronto New York Milwaukee Charlotte	31 33 .484 18½ 29 36 .446 21 27 37 .422 22½ 26 36 .419 22½ 26 37 .413 23 12 50 .194 36½ 11 53 172 38%								

Western Conterence									
san Antonio Phoenix Seattle Ilas uston cramento emphis nver	49 48 43 42 39 40 37 33	15 15 20 22 25 26 27 30	Pct .766 .762 .683 .656 .609 .606 .578 .524	GB - ½ 5½ 7 10 10 12 15½					
nnesota L Lakers L Clippers rtland Iden State ah W Orleans	33 32 29 23 21 20 14	33 32 35 40 44 44 49	.500 .500 .453 .365 .323 .313 .222	17 17 20 25½ 28½ 28½ 34½					

Thursday's games Miami 102, L.A. Lakers 89 Dallas 98, Portland 94 Golden State 100, Sacramento 97 Friday's gar York at Atlanta Utah at New Jersey L.A. Lakers at Indiana Philadelphia at Clevelar Toronto at Detroit Minnesota at Memphis Boston at Houston Boston at Houston New Orleans at Chicago Washington at Milwaukee Charlotte at San Antonio L.A. Clippers at Denver Golden State at Phoenix

Orlando at Seattle Saturday's games Saturday's g Utah at Washington Chicago at Philadelphia New York at Miami Boston at New Orleans Charlotte at Dallas Orlando at Portland

Orlando at Portland Sacramento at L.A. Clipp Sunday's ga Cleveland at Toronto Phoenix at Memphis New Jersey at Indiana San Antonio at Detroit Houston at Minnesota

Thursday Heat 102, Lakers 89

LA. LAKERS — C. Butler 5-14 0-0 10, Odom -9 3-4 11, Mihm 0-4 1-2 1, Bryant 8-23 8-9 26, tkins 9-18 0-0 23, Grant 4-9 0-0 8, JJones 0-3 -0 0, Cook 3-3 1-2 10, Med vedenko 0-2 0-0 0, krown 0-1 0-0 0, Walton 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 33-87

Brown 1-1 to-0 , Walson 1-1 13-17 89. EJones 5-15 1-2 12, Haslem 0-6 2-7, 2 (O'Neal 11-19 3-9 25, DJones 4-9 0-0 11, Wade 8-16 11-12 27, Laether 1-1 0-0 2, Dool-ing 6-11 4-4 17, Doleac 1-1 0-0 2, Anderson 2-2 0-94. Totals 3-80 21-29 102. L.A. Lakers 25 22 22, 33-102

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Mavericks 98, Blazers 94

PORTLAND — Abdur-Rahim 6-18 8-9 20, Khryapa 3-5 0-0 6, Przybilla 6-12 4-4 16, Stoudamire 7-22 1-1 20, Telfair 8-16 0-0 16, Outlaw 3-5 3-4 9, Frahm 2-4 2-2 7, Anderson 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-82 18-20 94.

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Warriors 100, Kings 97

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Excerpts from Thursday's hearing on steroids in Major League Baseball:



"I have never taken illegal performance-enhancing drugs. have never injected myself or had anyone inject me with anything. I have not broken the laws of the United States or the laws of the Dominican Republic. I have been tested as recently as 2004 and I am clean." - Sammy Sosa of the Baltimore Orioles. His lawyer read his prepared testimony.



"Like I said before, I've never taken it. So if you want to play under the rules of the Olympics, I welcome it." — Rafael Palmeiro of the Baltimore Orioles, asked if stricter drug testing rules, such as those for Olympic athletes, should extend to baseball.





"The allegations made in that book, the attempts to smear the names of players both past and having been made by present, one who for years vehemently de-nied steroid use, should be seen for what they are: an attempt to make money at the expense of oth-ers." — Boston Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling, referring



"So that there is no misunder standing from my perspective, I will suspend any player who tests positive for an illegal steroid. There will be no exceptions. The (players) union is aware of that and they accept it." — Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig.

McGwire evasive on questions about steroids

First player to hit 70 homers in season refuses to 'name names;' others issue denials

BY HOWARD FENDRICH AND RONALD BLUM The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - In a room filled with humbled he roes. Mark McGwire hemmed and hawed the most.

His voice choked with emotion, his eyes nearly filled with tears, time after time he refused to answer the question everyone wanted to know: Did he take illegal steroids when he hit a then-record 70 home runs in 1998 — or at

Asked by Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., whether he was asserting his Fifth Amendment right not to incriminate himself, McGwire said: "I'm not here to talk about the

past. I'm here to be positive about this subject. Asked whether use of steroids was cheating. McGwire

said: "That's not for me to determine To a couple of other questions, all he would say is: "I'm retired

The dark clouds over baseball rained on Big Mac, whose powerful bat once captivated the nation.

"I know that he was in anguish yesterday just being baseball Commissioner Bud Selig said Friday on NBC's "Today" show. "Everybody has to do what they

have to do. The other players were very outspoken."

McGwire was just part of Thursday's show at the House
Government Reform committee's hearing on steroids in baseball, when lawmakers repeated threatened federal legislation to govern drug testing in not just baseball, but perhaps all U.S. sports.

Five current and former players, three of them among the 10 leading home run hitters in history, found them-selves sitting biceps-to-biceps on Capitol Hill instead of a baseball field, wearing business suits instead of uniforms,

forced by subpoena to testify before Congress about whether they cheated by using steroids. Heads turned, strobes flashed and necks craned to get a glimpse of them on a day of extraordinary theater. The players bemoaned steroids as a problem for their sport but

denied the drugs are widely used. Jose Canseco, whose best-selling book, "Juiced," drew lawmakers' attention, said anew that he used perfor-mance-enhancing drugs as a player. Baltimore Orioles teammates Sammy Sosa and Rafael Palmeiro said they

McGwire in the past has denied using steroids but under oath repeatedly declined to respond directly. Peer ing at lawmakers over reading glasses, his goatee flecked with gray, McGwire was pressed to say whether he had taken performance-enhancing substances or whether he could provide details about use by other players. Over and over, he said he wouldn't respond.

All of the players offered condolences to the parents of

two young baseball players who committed suicide after using steroids

The parents testified, too, along with medical experts who talked about the health risks of steroids. "Players that are guilty of taking steroids are not only cheaters — you are cowards," said Donald Hooton of

"What I'm hearing is that I'm the only person in the major leagues who used steroids." — Jose Canseco, who has acknowledged using steroids during a ca-

reer in which he hit 462 home runs. he also wrote a best-selling book in which he alleged Mark McGwire and other major leagu-

Mark McGwire, who broke Rogers Maris' season record of 61 home runs when he hit 70 in 1998, said "I'm not here to talk about the past. I'm here to be positive about this subject" during a hearing on Capitol Hill on Thursday.

Plano, Texas, whose son, Taylor, was 17 when he hanged himself in July 2003

During a hearing that lasted 111/4 hours, lawmakers questioned baseball's new drug-testing plan, including a provision allowing for fines instead of suspensions. A first offense could cost 10 days out of a six-month season, or perhaps a \$10,000 fine "That's the best we could do in collective bargaining."

Selig said. "The penalties would be much tougher if I had my way." He added that he would suspend anyone who fails a test,

vowing: "There will be no exceptions."

Canseco's book included claims that he injected McG-

wire with steroids when they were teammates with the Oakland Athletics and that Palmeiro used the drugs. In a tense scene, they sat at the same table, never directly addressing each other. During a break, Canseco was left out while the other players huddled.

"Steroids were part of the game, and I don't think anyreally wanted to take a stance on it," Canseco said. "If Congress does nothing about this issue, it will go on

Several congressmen gushed about the sport, recalling how as children they collected baseball cards and auto-graphs and looked up to players. For the most part, memers of the committee appeared deferential and unwilling to press the players, saving their harshest criticism for baseball officials.

"Why should we believe that the baseball commissioner and the baseball union will want to do something when we have a 30-year record of them not responding to this problem?" asked Rep. Henry Waxman of California, the com-

mittee's ranking Democrat.

The paneled hearing room was full when the players appeared, with camera crews lining the walls and clogging the aisles. Much of the crowd cleared out when the players left, leaving empty seats for Selig's testimony.

He said the extent of steroids in baseball had been blown out of proportion.

"Did we have a major problem? No," Selig said. "Let me say this to you: There is no concrete evidence of that, there is no testing evidence, there is no other kind of evidence. Questions about steroids have intensified as home runs have increased. McGwire and Sosa were widely credited

with helping restore baseball's popularity in 1998 when they chased Roger Maris' season record of 61 homers. McGwire's mark lasted only three seasons before San Francisco's Barry Bonds hit 73.

Bonds and the New York Yankees' Jason Giambi were not called to the hearing. Both testified in 2003 to a grand jury investigating a steroid-distribution ring, and there were concerns testimony to Congress could hinder the

Boston pitcher Curt Schilling, a vocal critic of steroid use, sat at one end of the witness table, with Canseco at the other. Palmeiro, Sosa and McGwire were in between.

Schilling took a shot at Canseco, saying claims in the former slugger's book "should be seen for what they are: an attempt to make money at the expense of others." He

even called him a "liar. But Schilling backtracked from his earlier claims of rampant steroid use, saying "the issue was grossly over-stated by people, including myself."

While boosting strength, steroids also can lead to dramatic mood swings, heart disease, cancer, sterility and depression; using most steroids without a doctor's prescrip-tion for medical purposes has been illegal since 1991.

Baseball banned steroids in September 2002 and began testing for them with penalties in 2004. Several congressmen pointed out that other major U.S. sports leagues have stricter policies and suggested legislation might be needed to make the testing uniform.

Giambi works out, doesn't tune in testimony

Jason Giambi lifted weights instead of watching his fellow players weather questions about steroids during Thursday's congressional hearing.

The New York Yankees slugger woke up at 10 a.m. — the same time testimony began in front of the House Government Reform Committee in Washington - and went straight to the gym at the team's facility in Tampa. Fla.

"I haven't kept up with it." Giambi said. "I wanted to get my workout in."

Giambi testified in 2003 to a San Francisco grand jury investigating a steroid-distribution ring and was excused on Tuesday from making the trip to Washing ton The San Francisco Chronicle reported in December that he acknowledged using steroids

Yankees owner George Steinbrenner said he watched highlights of the hearings on the TV while having dinner.

Asked if it was a bad day for baseball. Steinbrenner said: "Not a good one so far.'

San Diego pitcher Adam Eaton, the team's players representa-tive, did watch and wasn't impressed with the legislators' questioning.

"I think now that everybody's had their say, to some degree, it sounds like everyone is spinning their wheels, just passing time, Eaton said, "There's nothing coming out of this other than the attention, obviously.'

Jose Canseco, Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa, Rafael Palmeiro and Curt Schilling were asked whether baseball should adapt

Spring training

two-year bans for first-time violations, similar to Olympic policy.

"I think we're kind of jumping the gun a little bit on saying we should go to the extreme of the Olympic two-year ban," Eaton said. "Obviously if they get caught a second time it's a lifetime ban. We're in an entertaining business. The Olympics are put up on a pedestal of purity

Nearly all of the spring training docket in Florida was rained out on Thursday. The unexpected downtime didn't entice other players to watch the hearings, though.

"I didn't have the TV on today," Yankees pitcher Mike Mussina said, "I don't know what's going to come out of it. Whether I watch it or I don't doesn't change what's happening there."

About 10 members of the Boston Red Sox were in their clubhouse when the hearing started and none were watching even though it was on the TV. Some eating, others filling in NCAA brackets, others reading the newspaper.

At least one player used the day off to watch. In a crowded New York Mets clubhouse, Mike Piazza - an avid viewer of C-SPAN caught a few moments of the steroid hearings and said he was interested in watching future talks.

Piazza feels the issue is the "olive branch" between the players' union and management, and that he hopes the negative attention doesn't tarnish the sport with



Chicago Cubs pitcher Greg Maddux works against the Oakland Athletics on Thursday in Phoenix. Maddux won his first game of spring training.

"I hope what's not diminished is the perception of the skill it takes to hit a 95 mile-per-hour fastball or throw a no-hitter," he

In exhibition games:

Giants 7, Rangers 5: At Surprise, Ariz., Kenny Rogers, coming off a career-high 18 victories last season, gave up six runs and 10 hits in 32/3 innings for the Rangers. Rogers, who had pitched just once this spring, gave up a run in one inning when he started the opener March 3 against Kansas

Cubs 6. Athletics 4: At Phoenix, Greg Maddux picked up his first victory of the spring despite allowing four runs and seven hits with a walk and four strikeouts in five innings. Before the game, Cubs manager Dusty Baker suggested Maddux is a strong possibility to start on Opening Day. with Mark Prior and Kerry Wood

Padres 16, Rockies (ss) 7: At Peoria, Ariz., it was quite an afternoon for Ryan Klesko and Eric Voung Klesko looked like his former self, driving in six of San

sidelined by injuries.

homers and a single.

Young, signed by the Padres as a free agent in December, got to play in the same game with his 19-year-old son, Eric Jr., a Rockies farmhand brought up specifically for this game to play second base against his father's team.

Royals 5, Angels 3: At Tempe, Ariz., Mike Sweeney had three hits and Emil Brown drove in two runs to lead Kansas City past Los Angeles.

Brown and Eli Marrero had two hits apiece and Angel Berroa homered for Kansas City, which finished with 14 hits. Steve Finley had two hits and two RBIs for the

Diamondbacks (ss) 13, Brewers 10: At Tucson, Ariz., Alan Zinter hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the 10th inning for the Arizona split squad.

Troy Glaus was 2-for-3 with a double, homer and four RBIs. The Diamondbacks' new third baseman is 10-for-21 - a .476 average - with five extra-base hits and 12 RBIs in nine games.

The Diamondbacks finished with 19 hits, Milwaukee 17

Diamondbacks (ss) 5, Rockies (ss) 3: At Tucson, Ariz., Chad Tracy had two hits and three and Michael Gosling pitched four scoreless innings to lead Arizona in a matchup of split-squad teams.

Devil Rays 7, Phillies 3: At Clearwater, Fla., Eduardo Perez hit a three-run homer and Josh Phelps, Shane Halter and Jason Pridie had three hits apiece for Tampa Bay.

McGwire faces questioning like fidgety Mafia don

his is the price of all those home runs: A hero shamed, diminished not just in size but in stature. reduced to answering questions from Congress like some fidgety Mafia don — and the game he once dominated unable to crawl out from even that shrunken shad-

"I'm not going to talk about the past," Mark McGwire replied on at least eight occasions, usually when asked about some of the most revered accomplishments in a game that's held the nation in its thrall for more than 130 years.

Though only five players and a handful of MLB executives anneared before the House Government Reform Committee, make no mistake: All of baseball even Barry Bonds, all the more notable by his absence - was called on the carpet.

Only one man, however, owned

up.
"The most effective thing right now," former MVP and best-selling author Jose Canseco said, "is e've got to admit to certain things we've done. What I'm hearing is that I'm the only person in the major leagues who used ste-



when players didn't get better as they got older. We all

began

former

nitcher

got worse."

The day continued with the anguished stories of two families who lost sons to suicide because those kids believed the advice from coaches and scouts "to get bigger" meant by any means necessary, including the reckless use of steroids

Then a few of those players who got higger and better as they got older took the stage, and, except for the disgraced but still not discredited Canseco, washed their hands of any responsibility. The voices of McGwire and Canseco cracked when discussing the fates that befell young ballplayers Rob Garibaldi and Taylor Hooton. But it wasn't long before all of those who testified - again. with the exception of Canseco —

come baseball's mantra whenever questions about performance-enhancers arise. "I," said Red Sox pitcher Curt

Schilling, who on Thursday backed off some of his most strident criticism of steroid users, "am not going to dwell on the

That was essentially McGwire's answer to whether he considered the use of steroids "cheating

And to the question of whether his magical 1998 home-run race with Sammy Sosa — the one Commissioner Bud Selig credits with sparking the renaissance of baseball after a crippling strike four years earlier - was played "with honor and integrity.'

And to the question of whether he ever used any performance-enhancers beyond the steroid precursor androstenedione, which an Associated Press writer noticed sitting on the top shelf of his locker in 1998.

And even to the question of whether all the home-run records of recent years should be wiped off the books.

"I'm not here," McGwire kept answering, "to go into my past None of the other players, save

Canseco, were any more forthcoming. They saw no steroid use in the clubhouse, rarely dis-cussed it, and never learned enough about any potential abusers to make confronting them worthwhile.

"It was as acceptable in the late '80s and the mid '90s as a cup of coffee," Canseco said. Anybody who doubts that now

should have spent a few hours in Room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building. Rep. Henry Waxman recalled

that he and Selig, then the owner of the Milwaukee Brewers, were likely the only two people in the room who could recall Congress' first investigation of what was called baseball's "alarming" drug problem in 1973. He then reeled off a litany of failed chances that baseball failed to capitalize on ever since

Fans in Boston chanting "ste-roids, steroids" when Canseco stepped to the plate at Fenway in 1988; former commissioner Fay Vincent's unilateral policy banning, among other drugs, ste roids; a string of news reports; McGwire's andro admission: the

arrest of a ballplayer with steroids in his car: and more. But as we know now from 30

baseball failed to regulate itself?

The game's new drug policy, itself a product of pressure brought to bear in a previous congressional hearing chaired by Sen. John McCain, is full of loopholes. There are no tests for human growth hormones and amphetamines are not banned. But none of this apparently bothers fans attendance is up across the board and it hasn't cost baseball its special place in America's sport-

Not so with McGwire.

The redhead whose lightning swing and 20-inch arms captivated us all shuffled out of the room at the end of the day, his accomplishments now as deflated as his once Bunyanesque frame. A few minutes earlier, a congressman had asked McGwire what message he had for the half-million kids that medical experts believe have tried steroids trying to be just like him.

Just this once, McGwire didn't hesitate to answer.

'Steroids are wrong," he said. Do not take them. They give you nothing but false hope

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press, Write to him at: jlitke@ap.org

NHL players mulling proposals

One plan links player costs to revenue, one does not

By IRA PODELL The Associated Press

NEW YORK - After receiving a choice of two proposals from the NHL, the players' association went home to try to think of something better.

"We're going to do some brainstorming," union senior director Ted Saskin said.

The league and the union met for 21/2 hours Thursday in New York, but only 20 minutes was spent together. It was then that the NHL presented two six-year offers: one that linked player costs to league revenues and one that didn't

A source close to the negotiations told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity that the "de-linked" offer contained a hard cap of \$37.5 million per team, \$5 million lower than com missioner Gary Bettman's final, nonnegotiable proposal made on Feb. 15 - the night before he called off the season.

The removal of linkage was what got the union to agree for the first time to accept a salary cap, but the sides are still nowhere near an agreeable number.

The other offer was more along the lines of what the league wants a collective bargaining agreement with linkage to ensure "cost certainty" for its 30 clubs. In that proposal, players would be guaranteed 54 percent of league revenues, the source said.

Neither proposal really wowed the players' association.

When the players agreed to a salary cap last month, they countered the league's offer of a hard cap at \$42.5 million with a soft cap of \$49 million. The proposals

today were nothing new," Saskin told the AP. "It was basically a re-formulation ... actually worse in content than ones we had previously rejected.

The NHL, however, did make concessions. non-linked offer included a minimum payroll of \$22.5 million and provided a mechanism to negotiate the cap upward if there was certain revenue success, the

Both proposals included the players' offer of a 24 percent rollback on existing contracts. They also addressed issues such as the entry-level system, qualifying of-Ogilvie takes early lead fers, salary arbitration, and free



Joe Ogilvie talks about his sand shot on the 18th hole during the rain-delayed first round of the Bay Hill Invitational in Orlando, Fla., on Friday.

in Bay Hill Invitational

ORLANDO, Fla. - Joe Ogilvie started in the rain and finished in the cold, a first round in the Bay Hill Invitational that took him more than 24 hours to complete but left him atop the leader board

Friday morning. Whether he stays there won't be determined until the other 60 players finish in the afternoon in a tournament that so far has fe

tured odd weather and strange doings on the course. Ogilvie, coming off a playoff loss at the Honda Classic, fin-ished with a 4-under 68 and had a

one-shot lead over Graeme Mc-Dowell of Northern Ireland among the early starters. Sergio Garcia, Kenny Perry and Mark Calcavecchia were among those at 2-under 70. Tiger Woods looked as if he

might be among the leaders until his 8-foot birdie putt on the 13th hole caught the right edge of the cup and spun away. He was 3 under at the time and seemingly in control. But Woods had to make a 6-footer for par on the to avoid bogey-bogey finish. He

wound up with a 71. Ernie Els, joining Woods in the marquee group at Bay Hill, was five shots behind him after an ugly bogey on the par-5 12th. He made up those five shots in five holes, but not before the South African was so disgusted with his putting that he flung his ball into the water on the 13th. He also

shot 71 U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen hit two balls out of bounds - one on Thursday, one on Friday - in his first round and wound up with a 78. Goosen was so sporadic that he didn't hit a par 5 in regulation until the last one No. 16, and even then just barely.

His second shot started to roll into the water until it stopped in the wet grass.

The most bizarre moment belonged to Mark Hensby. He was 9 over for his round when he hit out of bounds on the 18th. Instead of reloading, he packed it in. The Aussie walked the rest of the hole

Golf roundup

with Andre Stolz and Mike Weir without hitting another shot, and was disqualified for not finishing the 18th hole

The PGA Tour has been packed with great tournaments and quality winners, although weather is emerging as a theme every bit as prominent as Woods, Phil Mickelson and Vijay Singh dominating early.

When nearly 2 inches of rain fell Thursday afternoon that suspended the first round after just three hours, it marked the sixth tour event this year where a

round was halted by weather. Worse than the rain, temperatures were in the mid-40s when the early starters returned to re-

sume the first round The lost time will lead to a long

The 36-hole cut will not be

made until Saturday afternoon. Groupings for the final round will not be determined until late Sunday morning, and threesomes will go off both tees the rest of the

Sorenstam one back in Safeway International

SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN, Ariz. - Defending champion Annika Sorenstam shot a 6-under 66 on Thursday to finish a stroke behind first-round leaders Lorena Ochoa and Siew-Ai Lim in the Safeway International, while Michelle Wie was in danger of missing the cut after a 73.

Sorenstam won her 57th LPGA Tour title two weeks ago weeks ago in Mexico in her season debut, her third straight victory dating to last year. The 15-year-old Wie is coming off a second-place tie in the season-opening SBS Open in Hawaii.

Juli Inkster matched Sorenstam at 66, Karen Stupples had a 67. and Soo-Yun Kang, Sung Ah Yim and Moira Dunn shot 68s. Paula Creamer, Beth Daniel, Candie Kung, Natalie Gulbis, Marcy Hart, Dawn Coe-Jones, Karrie Webb and Kim Williams had 69s.

Giants sign wide receiver Burress

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. -Plaxico Burress didn't let an agent stand in the way of joining the New York Giants

The free agent wide receiver officially joined the Giants on Friday, a week after rejecting an offer from the team. He then fired agent Michael Harrison and signed with Drew Rosenhaus. who renewed negotiations.

The six-year, \$25 million con-

tract was reached Thursday, and includes an \$8 million signing bonus, a football source told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The speedy former Pittsburgh

Steelers receiver met with the G ants last week and turned down a deal similar to the one he agreed to Thursday, causing New York to pull the offer from the table. But Burress liked the situation

in New York enough to work out a deal. He now becomes Eli Manning's No. 1 receiver

"Having the option to move around and be able to go in motion and create some one-on-one matchups, that's an opportunity that I've been waiting for," Burress said. "I believe I can go out and play at a level with some of the best receivers in this game."

6-foot-5 and 226 Burress. pounds, will be an attractive target for Manning, who is heading into his first season as a starter

Burress had 35 catches for 698 yards and five touchdowns last season and is a proven deep threat

Burress spent the last five sea sons in Pittsburgh after the Steelers selected him in the first round of Michigan State in 2000

Eagles linebacker Adams agrees to one-year deal

PHILADELPHIA - Linebacker Keith Adams agreed to a one-year contract Friday with the Eagles following a season in which his career-high 54 tackles helped Philadelphia reach the Super Bowl.

Adams also is a key player on special teams whose value rose after he played well as a starter filling in for Mark Simoneau in the playoffs.

Sports briefs

Steelers restructure contract, free up salary cap money

PITTSBURGH - The Pittsburgh Steelers restructured the contract of left tackle Marvel Smith on Friday to free up \$2.55 million in salary cap space.

Smith will be paid the minisalary mum-wage base salary of \$540,000 in 2005 instead of the \$3.95 million in salary he had been due. The remaining \$3.4 million was paid to Smith this week as a signing bonus.

Over the last three years. Smith

has been given \$11.1 million in bonus money while making the NFL minimum in salary each

Man pleads guilty to making threats in Bryant case

DENVER - A California man pleaded guilty Friday to threatening the prosecutor and the alleged victim in the rape case against Kobe Bryant.

Cedric Augustine, 38, of the Los Angeles area, could get up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Augustine pleaded guilty to

making interstate threats. In exchange federal prosecutors dropped two dozen other counts, including attempted extortion and threatening to use fire or ex-

Augustine, who appeared to be crying at times, admitted that he called Eagle County District Attorney Mark Hurlbert in 2003 and threatened his life and that of the 20-year-old Colorado woman who accused the basketball star of rane.

The criminal charges against Bryant were dropped in Septem-ber after the woman said she no longer wanted to go forward with the case. She and the Los Angeles Lakers star announced March 2 they had agreed to an undisclosed settlement in her civil suit against

Bryant denied assaulting the woman and said they had consensual sex.

Cardinals' Sanders sidelined indefinitely with appendicitis

JUPITER, Fla. - St. Louis Cardinals outfielder Reggie Sanders will be sidelined indefinitely after being diagnosed with appendicitis Thursday. The Cardinals said Sanders 37

was scheduled to have an appendectomy later Thursday night. The veteran outfielder reported to camp in the morning and complained of stomach pain. He was evaluated by the team's medical staff and diagnosed with acute apnendicitis.

Sprinters Kenteris, Thanou cleared by Greek officials

ATHENS, Greece — Sprinters Kostas Kenteris and Katerina Thanou were cleared by Greek sports officials Friday of evading pre-Olympic drug tests. The ruling by the Greek Athlet-

ics Federation came after two months of hearings into a scandal that deeply embarrassed the hosts of last summer's Athens Olympics. The sprinters had faced possible two-year bans if found guilty.

Their coach, Christos Tzekos was blamed for the athletes missed tests and was suspended for four years. He was cleared of senarate accusations of distributing banned substances.

Costas Panagopoulos, head of the five-member sports panel, said the sprinters were evonerate ed by a 4-1 vote.

Slutskaya leads in worlds after short program

MOSCOW - Irina Slutskaya led the short program in figure skating's world championships Friday, finishing just ahead of Sasha Cohen despite a continuing heart ailment and the stress of performing before a home crowd Cohen finished less than three points behind Slutskava

Caroline Kostner of Italy, who landed a triple-triple, was in third heading into Saturday's final free program. Japan's Miki Ando was fourth after the short program and defending world champion Shizuka Arakawa of Japan was sixth.

Orien Greene turns up when its tourney time

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Louisiana-Lafayette guard Orien Greene is making his fourth straight appearance in the NCAA tournament. More impressive is that he's done it with two schools.

Greene made his first two trips with Florida before transferring to the 13th-seeded Ragin' Cajuns, who play fourth-seeded Louisville on

Friday night.

Coincidentally, Greene's old team also was sent to Nashville in the NCAA pod system even though the Cajuns are in the Albuquerque Regional, while Florida is in the Syracuse Regional.

"Oh yeah, it's pretty ironic they (are) out here like that," Greene said.

Before transferring, Greene was Florida's Mr. Basketball at Gainesville High School, played in every game for the Gators as a freshman, and started in 30 games as a sophomore. He said he has changed since leaving Flori-

da.

"I've grown a lot. I probably just worked on

every aspect of my game and not just one or two parts, and I just go out there and try to win and play every game like it's my last," Greene said.

Greene broke his right leg at Kansas on Dec. 11 and missed six games, then returned to help the Caiuns win 14 of their last 17.

He planned to chat with some of his former teammates such as David Lee and Adrian Moss and even Florida coach Billy Donovan. But Greene does have an agenda this time around with the Caiuns.

"We've been put out every time ... hopefully I can go a little bit further this year," he said.

Some time away: A few months ago, Bucknell coach Pat Flannery was enjoying basketball so little that he needed some time off.

"We got to a point where it just wasn't as fun as it was supposed to be," Flannery said. "I wasn't communicating with my family and my kids. ... I just hit a wall, and when I did, I got the kind of help I needed."

Flannery still attended practices but took a few games off, received counseling for stress and came back feeling rejuvenated.



"Basketball is not who I am, is what I found out," Flannery said. "It's what I do. And that wasn't the case before."

Flannery returned to lead Bucknell to a Patriot League tournament title and a berth in the NCAAs. The Bison, seeded 14th in the Syracuse Regional, play third-seed-

ed Kansas in Oklahoma City on Friday night.
The Bison had been on their way to an
11-game winning streak before Flannery
stepped away, but players said his leave of ab-

sence made things better
"We definitely noticed a change," guard
Kevin Bettencourt said. "It's tough on your
team to lose your head coach for any stretch
of time. It was something he needed to do and
we were here to support him. When did get
back, it did bring the team closer. It made
other guys step up and be leaders, and since
he has been back, we have jelled better as a

And now that his Bison are in the NCAA tournament, what's not to like? Flannery said he's happy again and making sure to enjoy the little things.

"I'm in a whole different spot," he said.

Left behind: Guard Billy Edelin, a key cog in Syracuse's run to the national championship two years ago, did not accompany the team to Worcester, Mass., for its first-round game against Vermont on Friday.

Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim acknowledged that Edelin did not make the trip but would not elaborate on his absence.

Edelin was declared ineligible by the NCAA for the fall semester because he did not mea cademic eligibility requirements but was granted an academic waiver petition by the NCAA in October, making him immediately eligible to play.

Although Edelin did not practice before the season and sat out the first five games because of academics, he played in 20 games and has converted more than 50 percent of his shots (34,for,67)

However, he has not played in the Orange's last six games.



Minnesota coach Dan Monson, getting a pat on the head from Aaron Robinson, has weathered a stormy rebuilding process in getting the Gophers back into the NCAA tournament.

Edelin had been practicing with the team and was on the bench for all three of Syracuse's games in the Big East tournament in New York last week.

Job security: Dan Monson's job security at Minnesota was shaky at best this time last sea-

Monson tuned out the critics and rumor mongers and led Minnesota into the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1999. The Gophers play Iowa State on Friday in Char-

"For people to start getting off his back and start giving him a little credit is nice to see," forward Brent Lawson said.

Monson has not had an easy time in his six seasons at Minnesota. He took over as the school was reeling from an academic scandal. The scandal cost Minnesota scholarships and a reduction in recruiting privileges that made it difficult for Monson to rebuild. He's finally done it this year.

Morgan's 21 spark UNLV win

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Ricky Morgan scored 21 points to lead UNLV past Arizona State 89-78 in the first round of the NIT on Thursday night.

Morgan had 15 points in the first half and was 6-for-9 from the field overall, including 3-for-3 from three-point range. He was averaging 3.4 points per game coming in the game.

The Rebels (17-13) advanced to play at South Carolina in the second round Tuesday night.

Ike Diogu had 29 points and 11 rebounds in what may have been his last game for the Sun Devils (18-14). The junior power forward could be an NBA first-round draft pick this year if he decides to skip his senior sea-

Diogu was 10-for-16 from the field and 8-for-11 from the free throw line.

Odartey Blankson had 19 points for the Rebels and Jerel Blassingame and Michael Umeh each added 11.

UNLV shot 59 percent from the floor (34-for-58), including 11-for-22 from three-point range. Arizona State made 45 percent of its shots.

UNLV, which led just about the entire game, built its largest lead of the first half at 30-21. The Sun Devils then went on an 8-0 run, but the Rebels pulled away late in the half and led 48-40 at intermis-

The Sun Devils scored the first five points of the second half, but came no closer the rest of the way.

UNLV eventually built a 77-61 lead with 7:11 left, their largest lead of the game.

BY MIKE HARRIS The Associated Press

or Kurt Busch, last season was about being in the right place at the right time — on and off the racetrack. So far in 2005, more of the

So far in 2005, more of the same. Bush, the reigning champion, is

Back atop the NASCAR Nextel Cup points standings heading into Sunday's race at Atlanta Motor Speedway, thanks to the sanctioning body taking 25 points away from Las Vegas race winner Jimmie Johnson after his car failed a postrace inspection.

Busch, off to a great start this season with finishes of second, third and second, went into last Sunday's race leading Johnson by five points and came away from his latest runner-up finish trailing by 15 points.

The penalty against Johnson after his Chevrolet failed the minimum height requirement put Busch back on top by 10 points.

Racing notes

Busch said it's much too early for the points, or having the series lead, to make much of a difference.

"We're only three races into this deal, and March is way too early to talk about where you are in the points," Busch said. "Obviously, we want to go out

"Obviously, we want to go out and earn as many points as we possibly can — that's what is important right now. Not necessarily whether we're in first, second, third or whatever."

Based on the first three races, it appears the championship could be a season-long battle between Roush Racing and Hendrick Motorsports. Hendrick drivers Jeff Gordon

and Johnson have won two of the first three races and rookie Kyle Busch — Kurt's younger brother — won the pole at California and finished second at Las Vegas.

Greg Biffle got the other race victory and, along with Kurt Busch, Carl Edwards and Mark Martin, is part of a Roush foursome among the top nine in the driver standings.

Busch finds it's good to be good, better to be lucky

"This penalty certainly won't affect the way we have to race against these guys in the future, because right now it looks like they'll be the ones to beat further down the road," Kurt Busch said. "So the penalty is nothing we're focusing on. They've been fast in all three races this year, and I don't see any sign of that changing."

This isn't even the first time he has found himself in the points lead because of a penalty.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. was docked 25 points for uttering a curse during a TV interview following a victory last October at Talladega. That cost Junior the points lead and thrust Busch to the top, where he remained to the end of the season. Gambling game: A gamble that paid off last Sunday in Las Vegas may have Rusty Wallace and his team rolling the dice more often this season.

Wallace was outside the top 20 for most of the race before he and crew chief Larry Carter agreed to unplug the right front shock absorber during a late pit stop — a move that worked well enough for Wallace to finish a respectable 12th.

"We were hedging on making

that call to unplug the shock in favor of maintaining track position, but we figured being satisfied with running 22nd just wasn't enough," said Wallace, who's in his final season. "We finally made the call to go for it and got us a decent finish out of the

"I'd say we learned from that and we'll be willing to take more chances during the rest of the races."

Wallace goes into Atlanta seventh in the driver standings. Had he finished 22nd in Vegas, the 1989 series champion would be 11th.

Stat of the week: General Motors drivers have been nearly unbeatable since Atlanta Motor Speedway's oval was reconfigured in 1997.

In the 15 races since the D-shaped track was lengthened from 1.522 miles to 1.54 miles and the start-finish line was moved to what had been the backstretch, GM cars have won 14 times.

Pontiacs, which no longer com-

pete in NASCAR's top series, won five races and Chevrolets won nine, including the last four.

Tops among the GM drivers is Bobby Labonte, who won four times in Pontiacs and in spring 2003 in a Chevy. Dale Earnhardt Jr. is the defending spring race winner, Jimmie Johnson won the fall event last year and Jeff Gordon took the fall race in 2003.

The only non-GM victory at Atlanta during that span was by Kurt Busch in a Ford in the fall 2002 event.

men's NCAA tournament
OPENINE ROUNG
Oakland, Mich. 78, Albahama AbA 69
SYRACUSE REGIONAL
SCHOOL 12-7) vs. North Carolina
Charlotte Q1-7) vs. North Carolina
Connecticut (22-7) vs. North Carolina
Connecticut (22-7) vs. North Carolina
North Carolina (27-9) vs. Oakland
Florida (23-7) vs. Oblind (21-10)
Villiancous (27-9) vs. Northern Town
(21-10) vs. Norther

Wisconsin (22-8) vs. Northern Iowa (21-10) (21-10) (22-9) vs. Bucknell (22-9) Kansas (23-6) vs. Bucknell (22-9) Second Round Second Round Connecticut (Central Florida vs. Char-lotth (Central Florida vs. Char-North Carolina/Oakland, Mich. vs. Min-nesota/lows State Florida/Ohlo vs. Villanova/New Mexi-co

CO Kansas/Bucknell vs. Wisconsin/N.

Priday, March 25
North Carolina/Oakland, Mich.—Minne-sota/lowa State winner vs. Flori-da/Ohio—Villanova/New Mexico Connecticut/Central Fla.—Char-lotte/North Carolina State vs. Kan-sas/Bucknell—Wisconsin/Northern

Men's NCAA tournament

NCAA tournament: Austin Regional

Utah beats UTEP, hostile crowd

TUCSON, Ariz. - Call this one

a road victory for Utah. Neutral court? No way. UTEP might as well have been

playing at home with the raucous following from El Paso that packed McKale Center on Thurs-

day.
With the deafening crowd with a 60-54 first-round NCAA tournament victory thanks to a brilliant bit of defense by Tim Drisdom and a critical rebound by exhausted center Andrew

Utah led 56-54 when UTEP's lightning-fast point guard, Filiberto Rivera, drove the lane. Drisdom stripped the ball away, then was fouled by Rivera. The Utah junior's two free throws made it 58-54 with 15.4 seconds to play. "I kind of took a gamble and

came up with the steal." Drisdom said. "It was a little luck, a little

Jason Williams tried to score inside, but Bogut got a piece of the ball, then saved the rebound as he crashed to the floor. Marc Jackson's two free throws with 5.6 seconds to go sealed a victory that left the Utes 6-0 in NCAA tournament games at McKale Center.

Utah (28-5) has won 23 of its last 25 games

Bogut, who played all 40 minutes, had 24 points, 11 rebounds and four blocked shots, but the Australian 7-footer, who could be the first player taken in this year's NBA Draft if he turns pro as expected, was just 2-for-4 shooting in the second half and made only four of 10 free throws.



Texas El-Paso's Will Kimble (52) battles Utah's Andrew Bogut for a rebound during a first-round NCAA tournament game. Utah won 60-54.

He didn't have a field goal in the final 17 minutes of the game.

"When they have three guys guarding him, you're not going to get him the ball," Utah coach Ray

Giacoletti said. The Utes' attempts to get the ball inside resulted in several of their 18 turnovers. Bryant Markson was the only other lite in dou-

ble figures with 10 points. Omar Thomas, one of the great stories of the tournament after

overcoming a childhood in which his father and two brothers were imprisoned for murder, scored 24 in his final college game, many of the points coming on drives around the slower Rogut Rivera added 11 points for the Miners (27-8).

The sixth-seeded Utes play Oklahoma on Saturday in the second round of the Austin Regional In other games Thursday:

uninspired play and the inspira-tional support Niagara got from former star Calvin Murphy and the cancer-stricken mother of coach Joe Mihalich.

in double figures with 17 points The Sooners (25-7) struggled with 46 percent field-goal shooting, but were helped by solid de-(20-10) into 16 turnovers. Juan Mendez led the 14th-seed-

ed Eagles with 22 points and 15 rebounds.

Kentucky 72. Eastern Kentucky 64: At Indianapolis, Kelenna Azubuike and Chuck Haves each scored 16 points and second-seeded Kentucky dominated the middle.

Kentucky (26-5) extended its record for NCAA tournament victories to 94 and improved to 37-9 in NCAA tournament openers.

Matt Witt led the Colonels (22-9) with 21 points.

After beating a rival located only 30 miles from its Lexington. Ky., campus, Kentucky now faces Cincinnati, located just 75 miles to the north

Cincinnati 76, Iowa 64: Jason Maxiell had 22 points, nine rebounds, six blocked shots and two steals for Cincinnati (25-7).
With the 6-foot-7 Maxiell re-

peatedly swatting away shots under the basket and Iowa under the basket and Iowa
(21-12) unable to hit from the outside, the Bearcats limited the Hawkeyes to just one field goal and three free throws in the first 11 minutes.

Jeff Horner had 12 points for

No. 17 Oklahoma 84, Niagara 67: Oklahoma overcame its own

Drew Lavender led six Sooners nse that harassed the Eagles

Sunday, March 27 Championship CHICAGO REGIONAL CHICAGO REGIONAL First Round Thursday, March 17 Wisconsin-Milwaukee 83, Alabama 73 Boston College 85, Pennsylvania 65 Arizona 66, Utah State 53 Arizona 66, Utah State 53 Alabama-Birningham 82, LSU 68 Friday, March 18 Oklahom Valentingham 82, LSU 68 Round 18 (1998) Alabama-Birningham 82, LSU 68 Friday, March 18 Oklahom Valentingham 82, LSU 68

okanoma state (24-6) vs. Southeast-ern Louisiana (24-8) Southern Illinois (26-7) vs. Saint Mary's, Calif. (25-8)

illinois vs. Nevada Arizona vs. Alabam

labama-Birming nday, March 20 Oklahoma State/Southeastern Louisi-ana vs. Southern Illinois/Saint Mary's, Calif.

alif. Semifinals
Thursday, March 24
Illinois/Nevada vs. Boston Colepe/Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Oklahoma State/Southeastern LouisiOklahoma State/Southeastern Louisinal Southern Illinois/Saint Marys,
nal Southern Illinois

Championship AUSTIN REGIONAL First Round

Thursday, March 17 72, Eastern Kentuck Thursday, March 17
Kentucky 72, Eastern Kentucky 64
Cincinnati 76, Iowa 64
Oklahoma 84, Niagara 67
Utah 60, Texas-El Paso 54
Friday, March 18
Syracuse (27-6) vs. Vermont (24-6)
Michigan St. (22-6) vs. Old Domin
85,5)

Oklahoma vs. Utah
Sunday, March 20
Syracuse/Vermont vs. Michigan State/Old Dominion
Duke/Delaware State vs. Stanford/Mississippi State Semifinals Friday, March 25

Championship Errole Becombine Author Author Championship Errole Becombine Author First Round
Thursday, March 17
Pacific 79, Pittsburgh 71
Wake Forest 70, Chattanooga 54
West Virginia 63, Creighton 61
Washington 88, Montana 77
Gonzaga 74, Winthrop 64
Texas Tech 75, UCLA 66
Texas Tech 75, UCLA 66
Louisville (29-4) vs. La-Lafr 20-10)

Georgia Tech (19-11) vs. George Washington (22-7)

Second Round
Saturday, March 19
Wake Forest vs. West Virginia
Washington vs. Pacific
Gonzaga vs. Texas Tech
Sunday, March 20
Louisville/La. Lafayette vs. Georgia
Tech/George Washington ge Washington Semifinals Thursday, March 24

Washington/Pacific vs. Louis-rille/La.-Lafayette—Georgia Feeh/George Washington Wake Forest—West Virginia vs. Gonza-

ga/Texas Tech Saturday, March 26

Champion Sip Champion Sip Champion Sip Champion Sip Chicago Regional champion vs. Albuquerque Regional champion Syracuse Regional champion vs. Austin Regional champion vs. Austin Regional champion vs. Austin Regional Champion Monday, April 4

NCAA tournament: Syracuse Regional

Langford's saga mirrors that of Kansas scorer Wayne Simien was out for

BY JEFF LATZKE The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY - First. Kansas guard Keith Langford busted up his ankle. Then he came down with the flu

If things weren't topsy-turvy enough for the Jayhawks heading into their first-round NCAA Syra cuse Regional matchup with 14th-seeded Bucknell on Friday night, Langford's left ankle — oh. and that pesky flu, too - flared up again.

Between their No. 2 scorer's stomach problems, ankle sprains and headaches it's no wonder the third-seeded Jayhawks have been a bit discombobulated

They've lost five of their last eight games and couldn't be any more unpredictable as they seek their third Final Four appearance in four years.

Even coach Bill Self isn't sure what to expect. His answers parts of the Jayhawks' public practice and participated in others, were filled with one "I don't know" after another.

"I don't know if he will play to-

morrow night," Self said Thursday, reasoning that Langford's ankle would probably physically allow him to play against Buck-nell (22-9), but he might not feel un to it "I think he's feeling better, but

I don't know if he has enough strength to play," Self added. Langford initially hurt the ankle practicing for the Jayregular-season finale against Missouri, then aggravated it during the 72-68 loss to the Tigers.

On his way to recovery, Langford came down with the flu and was unable to play in the Big 12 tournament last week. Without him, the Jayhawks beat Kansas State in the quarterfinals then lost to Oklahoma State in the

He spent three days in the hospital, and it appeared the journey was over.

semis

"He gets out and tells us, 'The ankle's feeling pretty good, I just don't have any strength or stami-"Self said. "He starts practicing, he's limited and the ankle gets to woofin' and he has a relapse of the flu.

"It's just been unbelievable. It really has Whether Langford plays may

not be enough to fix what's been ailing the Jayhawks. Even when Langford had two healthy ankles and no signs of the flu, the Jayhawks lost three games in a row for the first time in more than a

They ended that skid with an impressive offensive performance in an 81-79 victory over Oklahoma State. Another solid game against the Cowbovs ended in a 78-75 loss without Langford in the Big 12 tournament. In between, the Jayhawks struggled against Kansas State and Missou-

"I think we've really been working hard to regain our focus," for-ward Christian Moody said. "We went through a couple tough games, but I think that coach has done a really good job of getting us prepared for Bucknell and getting our minds ready for the tournament.

Moody missed two games during the losing skid with a staph infection in his knee, and leading

four games earlier in the season with a thumb injury. "We haven't been whole hardly at all this year," Self said. "But I do think when we get Keith back we'll be as close to whole as we've been all season. I believe we've

played very well short-handed. "Sometimes fans equate performance with wins and losses but sometimes as a coach, you get better through losses. I don't feel bad about the way we're playing lately. I'm pretty encouraged, to be honest, and I think our players

are encouraged also. The Jayhawks have some experience playing in the NCAA tournament without an injured star. Simien missed the 2003 tournament because of a shoulder injury, and the Jayhawks made it to the title game before losing to Syracuse.

"I think it's something we have grown accustomed to, so it won't be a problem," said guard Michael Lee, who would start if Langford can't play. "We won't come out and not know what to do. Everybody understands that when somebody on your team goes down, somebody has to step up."

NCAA tournament: Chicago Region

Wis.-Milwaukee rolls out the Tide

CLEVELAND Wisconsin-Milwaukee's players didn't madly chase each other around the floor or do anything extraordinary to celebrate the biggest victory in school history.

The Panthers are above all that. This was business as usual.
"We expected this," forward

Joah Tucker said. "It wasn't a big surprise for us.' Wisconsin-Milwaukee, whose

players were briefly barred from practicing Wednesday when they couldn't produce their student-IDs, pulled off the first stunner of the NCAA tournament, beating Alahama 83-73 on Thursday Now everyone knows the Pan-

Tucker and Ed McCants scored 21 points apiece as Milwaukee (25-5) won its first NCAA tourney game in its second try. Two years ago, the 12th-seeded Panthers lost to Notre Dame 70-69.

Horizon The underrated League champions finished the job this time, outplaying one of the Southeastern Conference's top programs and continuing a trend of No. 12s beating No. 5s in March. That first-round matchup has produced an upset in 16 of the nast 17 tournaments the only evcention being in 2000.

This is an atypical team from the Horizon League," Alabama coach Mark Gottfried said.

Winston had Kennedy points and Ronald Steele 16 for the Crimson Tide (24-8), who had hoped to have another run like a year ago when they made it to the round of eight. But Alabama was outplayed by a lesser-known opponent from a little-known conference playing in a friendly arena.

In other games Thursday in the Chicago Region:

No. 1 Illinois 67, Fairleigh Dickinson 55: At Indianapolis. the 16th-seeded Knights took it to the nation's top-ranked team in point at halftime before succumbing after Illinois' 26-9 run that started the second half.

In the opening 20 minutes, Fairleigh Dickinson (23-10) outscored Illinois (33-1) inside 20-10 and won the rebounding battle.

Illinois guard Dee Brown, who had a team-high 19 points, called his team's first-half performance "kind of embarrassing," especially before a huge crowd dominat-

ed by Illini orange-clad fans. "We had breakdowns on things we don't normally do." Illini coach Bruce Weber said. "We've had a tendency, against teams that maybe don't have quite the reputation, to not play great basketball all the time

But Illinois led 58-39 with 5:14 remaining and the Knights didn't get closer than 11.

Luther Head had 13 points for Illinois, while James Augustine added 15 rebounds and 11 points. FDU won the overall rebounding battle 42-30

Gordon Klaiber had 24 points and eight rebounds to lead FDU was making its fourth NCAA appearance

Nevada 61, Texas 57: At India napolis, the Wolf Pack made an improbable comeback in the final 2 minutes, scoring the last eight points of the game in their second straight first-round victory

The Wolf Pack (25-6), who matched Texas shove for shove. survived a dreadful night by West ern Athletic Conference player of year Nick Fazekas. Kevinn Pinkney, who had 15 points, and Fazekas accounted for more than 41 percent of Nevada's points during the season.
With Pinkney in foul trouble

and Fazekas missing shots, they needed help. Mo Charlo came off the bench to score 12 points and Ramon Sessions added 11.

Fazekas finished with 10 points and 13 rebounds while shooting 3-for-14 against Texas' aggres-



Wisconsin-Milwaukee guard Roo Davis (24) celebrates his team's 83-73 victory Thursday over No. 5 seed Alabama.

Texas center Jason Klotz and backup guard Kenny Taylor nearly rallied the Longhorns in the second half. They combined for 26 of 31 points in the last 20 minutes and helped give Texas (20-11) a 57-53 lead and 2:24 to go.

Klotz finished with a ca-reer-high 20 points, while Taylor added 12, and Brad Buckman had 14 points and 11 rebounds. Daniel Gibson, the Big 12 freshman of the year, scored just eight points.

No. 9 Arizona 66, Utah State 53: At Boise, Idaho, the Wildcats avoided a second straight first-round exit by rallying from a slight halftime deficit and dominating the second half.

Utah State (24-8) shot 53 percent from the field this season, but was just 8-for-30 (26.7 percent) in the second half. Arizona kept turning the misses into easy points, getting the ball inside to Channing Frye as he scored 13 of his 17 points in the second half.

Salim Stoudamire fought through asthma and scored 17 points for the Wildcats (28-6) Hassan Adams and Chris Rodgers scored 10 apiece.

"We were able to cut their lead a couple of times, but they weren't going to have any of Utah State coach Stew Morthat."

Jaycee Carroll led No. 14 seed Utah State with 18 points, going 5-for-10 from three-point range Nate Harris was the only other Aggie to score in double figures

No. 14 Boston College 85, Pennsylvania 65: At Cleveland, the Eagles got back to playing like the team that didn't lose a game until Feb. 8.

"We were very aggressive, we made shots," said Craig Smith, who had 15 points and 13 rebounds. "It was kind of like how we started 20-0. I definitely feel we have our swagger back

Jared Dudley led a versatile attack with 18 points. The Eagles went 7-for-10 on three-pointers in the first half, when Penn drew in its defense, then passed inside for easy baskets and pulled away in the second.

The Quakers (20-9) didn't have nough firepower to hang with BC. Tim Begley, the Ivy League's Player of the Year, had 19 points.

UAB: Blazers fluster LSU

UAB. FROM BACK PAGE

gers had 21 turnovers - 12 in the first half — that led to 20 points. and had trouble controlling the ball even when UAB backed off, dribbling the ball off their feet out of hounds several times

Carldell Johnson was particularly effective against Tack Minor, pestering LSU's point guard into seven turnovers, including two in LSU's first three nossessions.

"We attacked Minor. He got cut off early in the game and when he didn't get a call, it kind of hurt their team." UAB's Demario Ed-

dins said. It sure did

Afraid of having the ball swiped away, the Tigers had trouble getting the shots they wanted. settling for long three-pointers and forcing shots in the lane. LSU shot just 35 percent and was six of 31 on three-pointers.

Brandon Bass, the SEC's play er of the year, led LSU with 25 points and 12 rebounds, but was the only player to hit more than half his shots (8-for-10). Darrel Mitchell, LSU's second-leading scorer (13.5 points per game), had two points on one-of-14 shooting and missed all nine of his attempts from long range.

"They're a scrappy team," Mitchell said. "They made us turn the ball over a little bit and they got easy baskets off of it, and they capitalized on our turnovers

UAB's defense set un quick-hit offense, leading to plenty of fast-break chances, snot-up three-pointers and open looks before the Tigers were fully setup.

The Blazers took control with a 12-2 run midway through the first half that gave them a 26-15 lead UAB held LSU to 10-of-31 shooting in the first half and led 41-29 at halftime. It only got worse for the Tigers in the second half.

LSU started off with a turnover and fell behind 59-34 after UAB opened with an 18-5 run in the first 6 minutes. LSU made a late run to cut UAB's lead to 75-66 with just over a minute left.

NCAA tournament: Albuquerque Region

Top-seed Washington starts fast, holds on vs. Montana blocked Nate Funk's three-point The Associated Press Montana was led by Kamarr his 17 in the second half for Pacif-J.P. Batista added 14 points for

BOISE, Idaho - Washington has received plenty of criticism about its No. 1 seed and didn't do a lot to end to it Thursday after an 88-77 victory over No. 16 seed Montana.

After charging to a 19-point lead against the Grizzlies (18-13), Montana kent it closer than expected.

"We came out with a lot of intensity and rotated guys in there who kept up the intensity up, but then we kind of got cool down the stretch," Washington's Brandon Roy said. "Being a No. 1 team is hard because you're thinking about it the whole game."

Roy had 17 points and Tre Simmons added 15

Davis' 24 points. The Grizzlies rallied from a dismal start before fading against the Pac-10 champion. The Huskies (28-5) face Pacific

in the second round In other games Thursday in the

Albuquerque Region: No. 22 Pacific 79, Pittsburgh

71: At Boise, Idaho, Christian Maraker led Pacific with 17 points, coming back after hitting his head hard on the court in the first half and Mike Webb scored a career-high 15 - all on three-pointers — for Pacific (27-3) "Being here last year and know

ing what it takes to get a victory definitely helped this team." said David Doubley, who scored 11 of Carl Krauser scored 25 of his

27 points in the second half as the Panthers (20-9) furiously tried to make up for a dismal first half.

No. 5 Wake Forest 70, Chattaooga 54: At Cleveland, Chris Paul scored 20 points in his return from a one-game suspension and second-seeded Wake Forest shook off a horrible first half.

Paul added six rebounds and five assists for Wake Forest (27-5), which will face West Virginia winner in the second round. Chris Brown scored 14 points for Chattanooga (20-11).

West Virginia 63, Creighton 61: At Cleveland, Tyrone Sally

attempt, then raced downcourt for a fast-break dunk with 2.9 seconds to go to break a tie.

Kevin Pittsnogle had 17 points for No. 7 seed West Virginia (22-10) which gave coach John Beilein his 500th victory. Funk had 23 points for Creighton (23-11).

No. 10 Gonzaga 74, Winthrop 64: At Tucson, Ariz., Adam Morrison scored 27 points to lead third-seeded Gonzaga (26-4).

The loss snapped No. 14 seed Winthrop's 18-game winning streak the longest in the nation. Gonzaga won its 13th in a row.

Neither team led by more than eight until the final minutes, and it was tied four times in the secand half

Gonzaga, and Ronny Turiaf had 13 points and 13 rebounds. Torrell Martin scored 22 points and made six three-pointers - both career highs — for the Eagles (27-6), who are 0-5 in the NCAAs. Gonzaga will face Texas Tech

in the second round No. 24 Texas Tech 78, UCLA

66: At Tucson, Ariz., Ronald Ross scored 28 points and sixth-seeded Texas Tech shot a season-high 62 percent from the field.

Texas Tech (21-10) improved to 2-2 in NCAA tournament games under coach Bob Knight, who is 44-23 in 27 NCAA appearances. It was only Knight's fourth victory in 12 tournament games since 1995.

SPORTS



Wade, Shaq help Heat complete season sweep of Lakers. Page 25

UAB's pressmen flatten LSU



LSU's Glen Davis (34) is hounded by Alabama-Birmingham's Ernest Little on Thursday. The Tigers (20-10) committed 21 turnovers, leading to 20 points for the Blazers (22-10).

Tigers wilt under Blazers' stifling pressure defense

BY JOHN MARSHALL

The Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho - Pressing, trapping and causing havoc, UAB's defense was at its frenetic best.

Yep, the Blazers could be ready for another deep run in the NCAA tournament.

Marvett McDonald had 21 points and hit five three-pointers, and 11th-seeded Alabama-Birmingham used its stingy defense to pull off another upset, knocking off Louisiana State 82-68 on Thursday night in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

"Basically, they hadn't faced pressure like we've given all year long," UAB's Donell Taylor said. "They were kind of thinking we would come out a little weak and they'd be able to do what they want to do, but we got in those guys' grill and they were kicking the ball off their feet and throwing passes at each other's knees. We just stepped our defense up a whole lot more

They're are doing it at just the right time. The Blazers (22-10) reached the round of 16 last year after beating Washington and top-seeded Kentucky, and seem to have that

same kind of confidence after taking out the Chicago Regional's sixth seed. Next up for UAB is third-seeded Arizona. which had trouble with No. 14 Utah State before pulling away in the second half for a 66-53 victory

"What a defensive performance by our team," UAB coach Mike Anderson said. "I thought our guys were clicking on a lot of different cylinders. We've been playing some





pretty good basketball and now you're seeing some of the parts starting to come together. LSU (20-10) got into the NCAA tournament with an eight-game winning streak and a

one-point overtime loss to Kentucky in the SEC tournament semifinal game, but the Tigers were no match for UAB's in-your-face de-

Alabama-Birmingham's Brandon Tobias (above) cheers as his 11th-seeded team topples a No. 6 seed 82-68. Louisiana State players Glen Davis (left) and Darrell Mitchell react to a delay-of-game call, one of several turnovers that led to the Tigers' 25-point deficit early in the second half.

didn't find a rhythm offensively until it was too late, quickly ending its first trip to the NCAA tournament since 2003.

"We just didn't handle it very well," LSU coach John Brady said. "I really think some of those (turnovers) were unforced and we got tentative. Then when we didn't make a couple of shots we would normally make, I think a couple of our guys lost the confidence they had played with the last month or six weeks." UAB's attacking defense gave the Tigers

fits immediately. Using a seemingly endless bench players saw action in the first half - the Blazers pressed the length of the floor and trapped in halfcourt sets, hounding LSU into mistakes and disrupting the flow of its offense. The Ti-





Wis.-Milwaukee topples fifth-seeded **Crimson Tide:** Illinois. Arizona get through tough tests

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Utah's clutch play in final minute subdues **UTEP**; Kentucky, Oklahoma march on

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■ Washington and Wake Forest overcome sloppy halves to reach second round, Page 31